

Entertainment/A32

Ex-Hagibis' son:
I love my stepdad
very, very much

Across/A17

300 Bulacan
teachers to stop
receiving pay

Lifestyle 2bU!/D2

Ten most hideous
characters of all time

News/A2

Ombudsman asks
NBI for report on
murdered colonel

Metro/A24

Fire guts Rustan's
warehouse
in Taguig

Tanong ng Bayan/A12

Halloween sa 'Pinas:
Gaya-gaya o Pinoy talaga?

Win a 21" TV! Text 2910 now!

Matillano getting 'only'
P3M in retirement pay

By Christian Esguerra
THE MAN'S getting "only" P3 million—but he's not complaining.
"Sige na, ayos na rin (It's OK, I'll settle for that)," Director Eduardo MATILLANO/A8

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House waters down taxes;
GMA meets tobacco men

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo met on Monday night with representatives of Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris after the powerful ways and means committee of the House of Representatives decided not to index the tax—HOUSE/A8

Miriam fires guns at generals' wives

'Mrs. Chief of Staff leads active group'

By Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

SEN. MIRIAM Defender-Santiago yesterday continued to pound the Armed Forces, saying that apart from the members of the "Gang of 12," a parallel group composed of their wives was actively involved in the "institutionalized" corruption in the service.

The administration senator said that unlike the wives of Mafia bosses, the women were "part of an operatic performance where costumes, such as uniforms and awards pinned to the chest, served to hide [their illegal deeds]."

"They themselves go out of their way to talk to the dealers" of military supplies, Santiago said in an interview.

She said that while not every general's spouse was involved in corruption, the women were usually led by the "Mrs. Chief of Staff" who "receives a cash reward of more or less P100 million, which is immediately converted into royalty-size diamonds, luxury vehicles, dance instructors, trips abroad."

The women are easy to spot because even their salt-and-pepper hair is "now colored orange, red, or other puzzling hues sufficient

MIRIAM/A22



THICK in rehearsals for the turnover rites of the AFP command from Gen. Narciso Abaya to Gen. Efren Abu on Friday, foot soldiers go through the ceremonials even as they are reportedly reeling from the mind-blowing sums that some of their superiors allegedly "converted" and pocketed for their own pleasure. GMA says no to "drench the uniform in dishonor for the acts of a few."

Military enraged by Miriam charges

By Alcuin Papa and Michael Lim Ubac

THE ACCUSATION of Sen. Miriam Defender-Santiago that a "Gang of 12" controls the Armed Forces of the Philippines and steals from it some P2 billion a year "strengthens the enemies of the state and poisons the minds of the soldiers," the AFP spokesperson said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Santiago's statement was an insult to the generals, their families, the officer corps

and ordinary soldiers.

"It is as if the sacrifices they made for 30 years or so in the service were all for naught. For a soldier, that hurts. They are human beings, too," Adan said at a press conference.

He said Gen. Narciso Abaya, the AFP chief of staff, and members of the Joint Staff Command were "angry and indignant" over Santiago's comments.

Santiago said the "Gang of 12," which according to her was made up of the chief

of staff and his 11 staff generals (J-1 to J-11), had institutionalized corruption in the military through "clearance" and "conversion."

Clearance refers to the falsification of public documents while conversion involves the malversation of public funds, according to the senator.

At least three officers led by Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former military comptroller, face court-martial for having

MILITARY/A21

SC rules court-martial for 290 Oakwood mutineers

By Philip C. Tuba

THE SUPREME Court has paved the way for the court-martial of 290 junior officers and enlisted personnel involved in the Oakwood mutiny in Makati last year.

In a 29-page decision released late on Monday, the tribunal dismissed the petitions of the soldiers to stop the court-martial proceedings against them, saying the general court-martial

had jurisdiction over the mutineers.

It said that Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel erred in ruling in February that the soldiers' offenses were "not service-connected," pointing out that Pimentel no longer had jurisdiction over the soldiers after another Makati court had dropped the charges of coup d'état against them.

The case did not include the 32 alleged ringleaders of the mutiny, who

are still facing coup charges before Pimentel's court.

"In fine, in making the sweeping declaration that these charges were not service-connected, but rather absorbed and in furtherance of the crime of coup d'état, the (Makati court) acted without or in excess of jurisdiction," said the high court in its unanimous ruling penned by Justice Romeo Callejo Sr.

"Such declaration is, in legal contemplation, necessarily null and void and does not exist."

The soldiers had asked the Supreme Court to stop the court-martial proceedings against them after Pimentel ruled on Feb. 11 that their offenses were "not service connected but absorbed and in furtherance of the crime of coup d'état."

They said this meant that the general court-martial no longer had jurisdiction

SC OKAYS/A22

Garcia withdrew P38M two days after story broke

By Armand N. Nocum and Christine O. Avendano

SEN. SERGIO Osmeña III yesterday said that Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and his family had eight more deposit accounts in one bank totaling P38.7 million.

Osmeña said Garcia himself withdrew the money in "boxes" from the United Coconut Planters Bank branch at the Salcedo Place Tower in Salcedo Village, Makati City, on Oct. 7, or just two days after the media reported on the corruption charges the general was facing for his unexplained wealth.

"At 3 p.m. of Oct. 7, General Garcia withdrew everything in cash, because there was

GARCIA/A21

Caroline cheers 'tox-sick' kids



ROYAL company: Princess Caroline visits children in Mabalacat believed to have gotten sick from the toxic waste left behind by US bases.

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, Pampanga—With a huge lump marring his cheek and forehead, 7-year-old Michael Pili finds it difficult to smile.

Yesterday was different. The little boy sat beside Monaco's Princess Caroline of Hanover and he was positively beaming.

He was one of 500 sick children whose illnesses had been linked to the toxic waste left by the US military at its former bases at Clark and Subic.

Michael's grandmother Norma, 61, took to the podium of the Parish of the Lord's Resurrection at the Madapdap resettlement site here and struggled to speak in English.

She thanked the princess for the visit and asked her to do one thing: "Please tell the story of Michael and the other sick children like him

CAROLINE/A28



AUSTERELY dressed at the royal dinner, Princess Caroline chats with Virlanie founder Dominique Lemay and Mary Prieto.

Zambo mayor scuttling peace talks—MILF

By TJ Burgnio

THE SECESSIONIST Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday slammed Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat for refusing to host an international team to monitor a cease fire agreement, and accused the mayor of sabotaging the peace talks.

Lobregat has rejected a plan to allow the 60-member monitoring team from Malaysia and Brunei to maintain a base in the city, saying that it would lure the separatist rebels, disrupt peace in the city, violate a gun ban and spoil the city's image as a tourist destination.

Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson, said Lobregat's refusal was "tantamount to sabotaging the peace process" based on "pure, selfish motives."

"Others are spending millions to help us attain lasting peace and here comes a local executive trying to scuttle the peace process," he said in a phone interview.

Deputy Speaker and Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin also assailed Lobregat for his "unwelcome" remarks to the international peace monitors.

'Here to help us make peace'

"If we welcome the presence, sometimes the direct involvement of American soldiers against the Abu Sayyaf group, I see no reason why we apply different standards to the [international monitoring team] who are here to help us make peace," said Salapuddin.

Kabalu urged the government to avert further damage by convincing Lobregat to comply with a standing agreement among the government, its foreign counterparts, and the MILF to allow the peace monitors to maintain a base in Zamboanga City.

"The government should settle this move by Lobregat. As far as I can recall, Zamboanga City is not an independent republic yet and is under the national government," he said.

"Besides, this is an international agreement reached after several consultations. We can't change it unless all the parties sit down again to amend it," he said.

The refusal reportedly forced local officials to look elsewhere for an alternative base for the monitors, who arrived in two batches this month to oversee the ceasefire agreement for a year.

Doing consultations

Teresita Quintos Deles, the presidential adviser on the peace process, yesterday admitted that her office has not yet finalized plans for a transfer site for the monitoring team "because we need to do consultation first with the local government officials."

The team's arrival was hailed by both the government and the MILF, saying that it would bolster past agreements and lay the ground for the resumption of stalled peace talks.

Kabalu dismissed Lobregat's claim that allowing the monitors to stay in the city would invite violence as the MILF has been assigned to provide security for the monitors jointly



LOBREGAT

with government troops.

He said that contrary to speculations, only two rebels were assigned to guard the monitors at any given time, he said.

"We have no intention to occupy Zamboanga, much less distract the peace process. We want peace. They look down upon us as if we're barbaric people. Why should they fear two rebels? What are they fearful about?" Kabalu said.

Another team of four monitors from Libya is expected to arrive in the middle of next month when Ramadan, the Muslim holy fasting month, ends and exploratory talks are expected to resume.

Accessible, strategic site

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, the government representative in the joint coordinating committee on cessation of hostilities, said Zamboanga City was a very accessible and strategic site for the peace monitors' work.

Lobregat said his city was not considered a conflict area and that the people were still suffering the trauma brought about the Cabatangan siege perpetrated by the followers of Nur Misuari, the founding leader of the mainstream Muslim insurgency, the Moro National Liberation Front.

But Salapuddin said healing comes when there is forgiveness, stressing that "the business of making peace is both our individual and collective responsibility to make it succeed."

Salapuddin also reminded Lobregat "to contribute and support in every way the effective implementation of the ceasefire leading to the sealing of the final peace agreement" with the MILF. With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

AFP denies JI terror suspects are gov't assets

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED Forces yesterday belied the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front's claim that a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group that allegedly planned to bomb the US Embassy in Manila was a military asset.

"The AFP strongly belies reports that the suspected Jemaah Islamiyah bomber, who planned to bomb the US Embassy in Manila is a 'military asset,'" said a statement from Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the chief of the AFP Public Information Office.

Military officials said the Mentang, who was arrested on Oct. 6 with his live-in partner Monawara Usop and another associate, Murisid Mubpon, had survived the US Embassy in preparation for a planned bomb attack.

The three, who were presented to the media last Thursday, allegedly owned up to having carried out the Davao City bombings in 2003 which killed 42 people and injured hundreds of others.

Mentang also reportedly admitted to being an MILF member and of having been trained in demolition work by JI experts in MILF camps.

The MILF's chief peace negotiator, Mohaquer Iqbal, claimed last Monday that Mentang was working for the military as an informant.

Lucero said the AFP had in fact already presented Mentang and Usop for prosecution before the city prosecutor's office of Manila.

The prosecutors have recommended the filing of charges against Mentang and Usop for illegal possession of firearms, he said.

Military and police intelligence agents recovered a .38 caliber pistol and a .45 caliber pistol with live ammunition during a

raid on Mentang's house on Fabic Street in Sta. Ana, Manila, on Oct. 6.

The prosecutors also recommended the filing of separate charges against Usop for "attempted homicide" after she allegedly pulled out a .45 caliber pistol and pointed it at one of the raiders.

Mentang reportedly admitted during interrogation that he was a member of the MILF and that he belonged to the first batch of 15 MILF members trained in "basic demolition for urban terrorism" at Camp Hudaybiyah in Butig, Lanao del Sur, in 1995.

He said the training was conducted by JI leader Zulkifli, an Indonesian who was arrested in Malaysia late last year.

Mentang also said that it was he who assembled the bombs that were used in the Davao International Airport and Sasa Wharf explosions.

Iqbal claimed that the arrest of the three suspects was part of an attempt to divert public attention from the ongoing investigation of corruption in the AFP.

He also said the arrest was part of the military's efforts to link the MILF to the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asia-based terror group which is linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network.

The MILF chieftain also said that the military had used Mentang to arrest other suspects in the Davao bombings.

Defense and military officials maintain that JI militants are training local and foreign terrorists in the Mt. Kararao range in Lanao del Sur, an area controlled by the MILF. The Muslim rebel group has denied the charge.

Peace talks between the MILF and the government are set to start once Malaysia, which is brokering the negotiations, sets the date for the resumption of talks.

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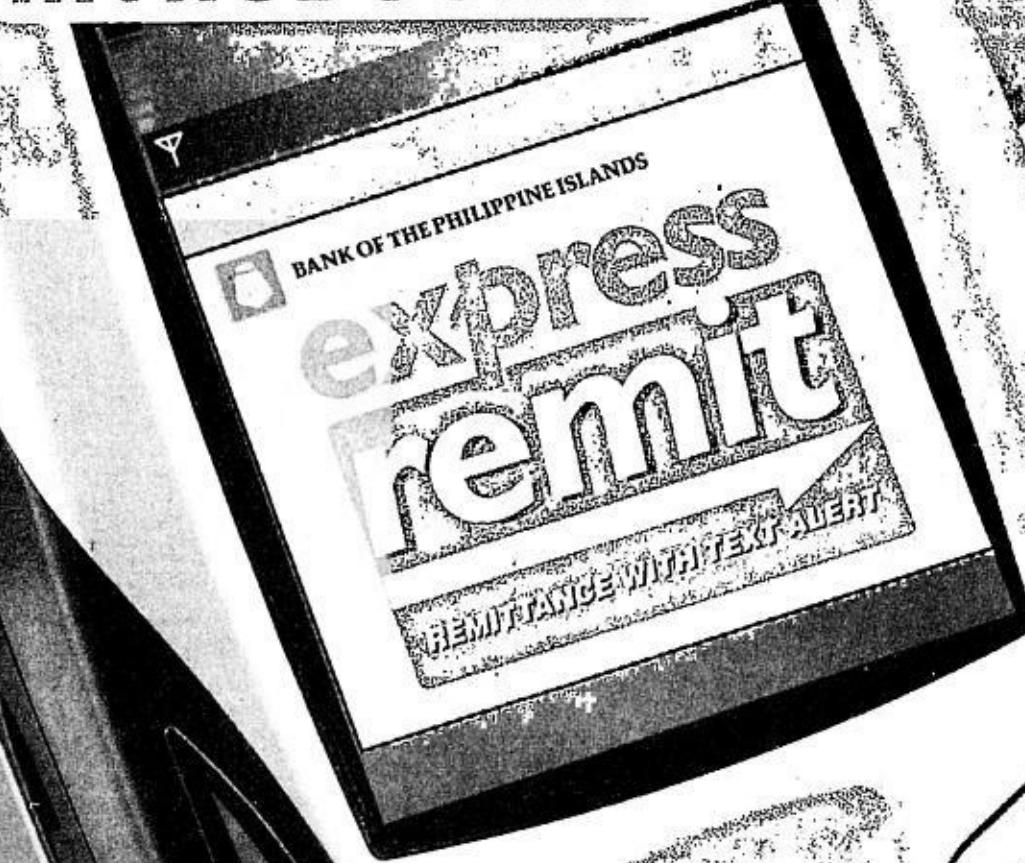
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Cebu City passed away on Oct. 23 at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife Ligaya Arriola Mondragon; children Pe, Eric and Justice, and Gemma and Efren; grandchildren Ron, Bernadette and Chris Tiu, Raphael and Tina Mondragon, Regina Lila Cabrera and Noelle Zamora.

His youngest daughter, Tata, passed on earlier. He will be laid to rest in Cebu City.

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SMALL PLACARDS, BIG MESSAGE

The placards with slogans are miniature but there is nothing small about the message that these housewives are trying to bring to the Department of Trade and Industry during yesterday's rally organized by the militant women's group Gabriela. The protest rally in front of the DTI office in Makati was held to protest soaring prices of basic commodities.

REUTERS

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Corrections

IN THE OCT. 17 issue, a Sunday Lifestyle article on Page F2—"Women of the year"—incorrectly attributed a distinction to Dr. Raquel B. del Rosario-Fortun. She is not the first woman pathologist in the country. Fortun believes the distinction belongs to Dr. Maria Paz Mendoza Guanzon, who wrote a research paper on "bangungot" in 1917. Guanzon became the first professor of pathology and bacteriology at the University of the Philippines in 1927-1933.

IN THE OCT. 21 issue, a news story on Page A3—"It will be QC jail for Atong Ang"—misstated that ousted President Joseph Estrada was arrested in January 2001. Estrada was arrested in April 2001.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer; PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascarado Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph

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Kuwait asked to stop Iraq-bound RP drivers

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday he is asking Kuwait not to let Filipino workers in that country cross over to find work in Iraq due to the danger there.

"This is not the time to let Filipino drivers and other (overseas workers) go to Iraq because the situation is very fluid," he said, following Kuwait's decision last week to lift a ban against foreign workers crossing its border to Iraq.

Romulo had sent a note verbale to the Kuwaiti government to voice his concern over the implications of the Kuwaiti decision on the safety of Filipinos. He dispatched Ambassador Roy Cimatu to Kuwait to press for a reconsideration.

Romulo said yesterday that Iraq's other neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia and Jordan, had been "holding so far" on the government's request to stop Filipinos from sneaking into the war-

torn Iraq through their borders.

"It's their prerogative, but we're appealing to them [to maintain the ban] because of our experience, because of what's happening in Iraq," he said at a press briefing.

But another official, who asked not to be named, voiced fears that Kuwait's decision to lift the ban would set a precedent.

The official said that there was a growing consensus among Iraq's neighboring countries that it was Iraq's responsibility, not theirs, to man its borders and stop foreign workers from sneaking into its territory.

Romulo said he had directed Ricardo Endaya, charge d'affaires in Baghdad, to meet with his counterparts from other countries and "solidify their commitment" and if possible, hammer out an agreement to impose the ban.

"We're trying to get an agreement not to allow Filipinos to en-

ter Iraq," he said.

Romulo appealed to other countries, including Kuwait, to hold the ban until after the national elections are held in Iraq in late January next year when the volatile situation is expected to stabilize.

"This is just temporary. The situation will ease up after the elections in January," he

said. "After that, we can revisit Iraq."

The government imposed a ban on the deployment of workers to Iraq and requested Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to stop Filipinos from crossing into Iraq in July after Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz was taken hostage by Iraqi militants.

With an AP report

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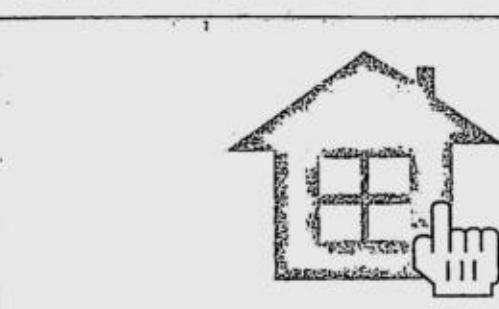
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FAMILY PLANNING

When 'natural' is unnatural

By Blanche S. Rivera

NATURAL family planning may be unnatural, after all.

An expert said yesterday that NFP, which the government is promoting, is very difficult for Filipino couples to practice because of the physiological sacrifice and behavioral change it requires.

Ric Gonzales, medical adviser of The Social Acceptance Project-Family Planning (TSAP-FP), said that NFP compels couples to abstain from sexual intercourse at a time when the body wants sex precisely during the fertile period.

"During this fertile period, women are prepared for a good sexual intercourse... and what NFP is saying is to abstain from having sex during this time," Gonzales said.

"It is unfair to NFP to call it unnatural. To avoid being confrontational, I use the term unphysiological," he said.

Gonzales, however, was quick to say that on the other hand, this abstinence tends to bond couples because it allows them to "enter into a state of negotiations."

"If you do NFP couples are allowed to have sex when the woman is unprepared for it. That's why it is important for males during this safe period to be romantic with their wives," he said.

Less than one percent of couples practice NFP. About 42 percent of Filipinos use contraceptives while some 2.5 million women do not use any family planning methods even if they say they want to space their births or limit the number of children.

The National Health and Demographic Survey last year showed that only 27 percent of women know when their fertile period is.

"This is an issue that is very important for NFP. Most women cannot predict their cycle.

If they don't know their cycle, they can't identify their fertile period, and this is important for abstinence," Gonzales said.

The TSAP, a major undertaking of the US-AID-funded Academy for Educational Development, is working with the Department of Health and other reproductive health advocates on the family planning hotline.

Gonzales noted that many of the questions from the hotline callers concerned fertility awareness. Some of the callers were males who did not want to get their partners pregnant.

DOH medical specialist Lourdes Paulino, officer-in-charge of the DOH Office on Women's Health, said that contraceptives were for couples who could not abstain all the time.

She said that the DOH door-to-door family planning campaign set early next year would focus on fertility awareness, especially among women in the rural areas.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has said that the Arroyo government stands pat on its decision to promote NFP and recognize artificial methods.

Dayrit said that family planning should be seen by Filipinos as part of responsible parenthood and not as a means to control population.

Cebu prosecutors told to stay put

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday rejected the bid of Cebu prosecutors handling the murder case of lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco to back out of the case.

Gonzalez said he rejected the move of City Prosecutor Cesar Tajanlangit and Assistant Regional State Prosecutor Vicente Mañalac to withdraw from the case since this would set a bad precedent.

"I will not allow that. If every prosecutor inhibits himself because of criticism, no prosecutor would be left. This is not a good precedent," Gonzalez said.

Tajanlangit and Mañalac had asked the Department of Justice to send to Cebu a special prosecution team to handle the case to avoid being accused of being biased in favor of the suspect, Michael Favila, a member of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), headed by cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr.

However, Gonzalez said he wanted the case to proceed in Cebu with the prosecutors handling it. He said he would just send a state prosecutor from Manila to monitor developments.

Tajanlangit and Mañalac announced their plan to withdraw on Saturday, a day after lawyer Gloria Dalawampu, who was hand-picked by the Bacolod family to take over from Yongco as private prosecutor in the Ecleo parricide case, also withdrew from the case against the alleged gunman in the Yongco murder case.

At the time of her death, Yongco was the private prosecutor in the parricide case against Ecleo for the murder of his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo, fueling allegations that Ecleo had a hand in her murder.

Yongco, 37, was shot four times by a lone gunman at around 8:45 a.m. of Oct. 11 at her office, located at the ground floor of her house in Barangay Zapatera, Cebu. She died a few minutes later at the Perpetual Succor Hospital.

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Malacca Straits pirates release 2 RP seamen

By TJ Burgoon

THE TWO Filipino seamen who were seized from their tugboat and taken hostage by pirates in the Malacca Straits early this month were released last week, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo announced yesterday.

Paterno Dionaldo and Sofronio Lacno, captain and chief engineer, respectively,

of the MV Erna, were freed following negotiations between their employer, Singapore-based Kasel Salvage Pte. Ltd., and their captors.

Romulo said the two had talked to their families in Manila following their release.

"Captain Dionaldo and engineer Lacno said they were a bit shaken, but otherwise were doing well," Romulo said in a press briefing.

He said he was not aware if ransom had been paid by their employer which handled the negotiations.

After their release, Dionaldo and Lacno were placed under the custody of the marine police in Belawan, Indonesia, and then handed over to the Indonesian-based agents of Kasel Salvage.

"They are now in a hotel in Medan, Indonesia, and are being prepared to be

flown to Singapore where the headquarters of Kasel is located. They are expected to arrive in Singapore today," Romulo said.

Heavily armed pirates boarded the Erna on Oct. 2 at 6:20 p.m. The tugboat was towing a crane barge through the straits when the pirates attacked.

The next day, another group of pirates attacked the tugboat but nobody was hurt. The eight other Filipino crew members of

the tug were flown home to Manila.

Romulo expressed gratitude to Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia for helping the release of the hostages.

"I also reiterate the Philippine government's commitment to increase cooperation with our Southeast Asian neighbors to combat piracy and make our sea lanes safer and more secure to enhance maritime cooperation and international trade," he said.



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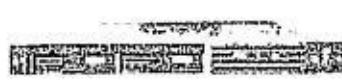
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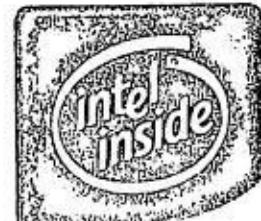
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UN: Iraqi rebels may have missing weapons

VIENNA—The UN nuclear agency has warned that insurgents in Iraq may have obtained nearly 400 tons of missing explosives that can be used in the kind of car bomb attacks that have targeted US-led coalition forces for months.

Diplomats questioned why the United States didn't do more to secure the former Iraqi military installation that had housed the explosives, which they say posed a well-known threat of being looted. Others criticized the United States for not allowing full international inspections to resume after the March 2003 invasion.

US officials played down the significance of the missing weapons, but Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry accused US President George W. Bush of "incredible incompetence" and his campaign said the administration "must answer for what may be the most grave and catastrophic mistake in a tragic series of blunders in Iraq."

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei reported the disappearance to the UN Security Council on Monday, two weeks after he said Iraq told the nuclear agency that 377 US tons of explosives had vanished from the al-Qaqa facility south of Baghdad as a result of "theft and looting... due to lack of security."

Al-Qaqa is near Youssifiyah, an area rife with ambush attacks. An Associated Press Television News crew that drove past the compound Monday saw no visible security at the gates of the site, a jumble of low-slung, yellow-colored storage buildings that appeared deserted.

"The most immediate concern here is that these explosives could

have fallen into the wrong hands," IAEA spokesperson Melissa Fleming said.

The agency first placed a seal over al-Qaqa storage bunkers holding the explosives in 1991 as part of UN sanctions that ordered the dismantlement of Iraq's nuclear program after the Gulf War.

IAEA inspectors last saw the explosives in January 2003 when they took an inventory and placed fresh seals on the bunkers, Fleming said. Inspectors visited the site again in March 2003, but didn't view the explosives because the seals were not broken, she said.

Nuclear agency experts pulled out of Iraq just before the US-led invasion later that month, and have not yet been able to return for general inspections despite ElBaradei's repeated urging that they be allowed to finish their work. Although IAEA inspectors have made two trips to Iraq since the war at US

requests, Russia and other Security Council have pressed for their full-time return—so far unsuccessfully.

US defense department spokesperson Bryan Whitman said US-led forces searched the al-Qaqa facility after the invasion.

"Coalition forces were present in the vicinity at various times during and after major combat operations," he said. "The forces searched 32 bunkers and 87 other buildings at the facility, but found no indicators of WMD (weapons of mass destruction). While some explosive material was discovered, none of it carried IAEA seals."

IAEA analysts since have viewed satellite photographs of al-Qaqa, and only two storage bunkers showed damage that may have occurred in bombing during the war, an agency official said. The other bunkers were intact, and the photos showed no evidence of a crater that would

have been created if bombing runs had caused the explosives to blow up, the official said.

Saddam Hussein's regime used al-Qaqa as a key part of its effort to build a nuclear bomb. Although the missing materials are conventional explosives known as HMX and RDX, the Vienna-based IAEA became involved because HMX is a "dual use" substance powerful enough to ignite the fissile material in an atomic bomb and set off a nuclear chain reaction.

"How did they fail to secure nearly 380 tons of known, deadly explosives despite clear warnings from the International Atomic Energy Agency to do so?" senior Kerry adviser Joe Lockhart said in a statement.

"These explosives can be used to blow up airplanes, level buildings, attack our troops and detonate nuclear weapons," Lockhart said. "The Bush administration knew where this stockpile was, but took no action to secure the site."

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the administration's first concern was whether the disappearance constituted a nuclear proliferation threat. He said it did not.

Clinton, Kerry gang up on Bush

WASHINGTON—Former President Bill Clinton and Sen. John Kerry ganged up on President George W. Bush on the campaign trail on Monday, with Clinton warning Bush wants to scare voters and Kerry slamming Bush's "incompetence" in not protecting tons of missing explosives in Iraq.

Bush, with former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at his side, criticized Democrat Kerry's strategy of "pessimism and retreat" and told voters in Colorado that "in every critical respect, my opponent and I see the war on terror differently."

The potential balance of power on the Supreme Court moved front and center with news that Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and is in the hospital after undergoing a tracheotomy.

Rehnquist, 80, the leader of the court's conservative majority, is expected back on the bench next week. But his illness reminded voters a new president could be asked to fill several vacancies of retiring justices on the closely divided court.

"We learned today that Justice Rehnquist is ill," Kerry told black ministers in a conference call. "We know that two or three justices will be retiring in the next years. The Supreme Court is at stake."

With eight days left in a neck-and-neck race

for the White House, both sides pulled out the big political guns in a final bid to energize base supporters and attract undecided swing voters in the last few toss-up battleground states.

An enthusiastic and noticeably thinner Clinton, hitting the campaign trail seven weeks after heart bypass surgery, told thousands of cheering supporters in a downtown Philadelphia park that Bush was trying to scare them.

"The other side, they are trying to scare the undecided voters about Senator Kerry and they are trying to scare the decided voters away from the polls," Clinton said, adding, "their plan is more of the same" on lost jobs, lost health-care benefits and rising budget deficits.

"If one candidate is trying to scare you and the other is trying to get you to think, if one candidate is appealing to your fears and the other one is appealing to your hopes, you better vote for the one who wants you to think and hope," he said.

Kerry strategists hope Clinton can help energize Democratic base supporters, particularly black voters who will be crucial to pulling out a win in swing states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida. Clinton headed to Florida after the Philadelphia rally for a solo appearance on Kerry's behalf.

"If this isn't good for my heart, I don't know what is," Clinton told the raucous crowd. Reuters



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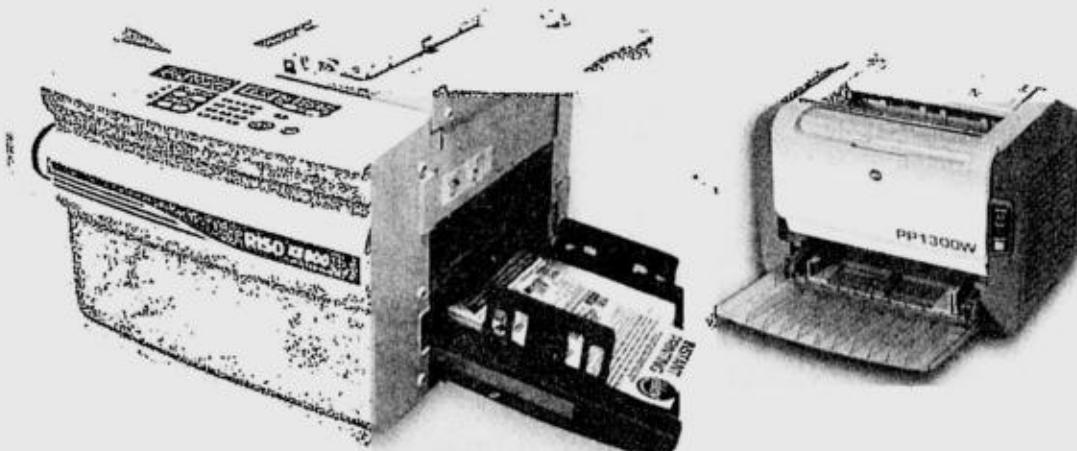
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South Korea tightens security after breach at border

DONGDUCHON, South Korea—South Korea mounted roadblocks and increased security along the Demilitarized Zone frontier with North Korea on Tuesday after a night patrol found a hole cut in a border fence, South Korean officials said.

A gap in the wire could mean North Korean agents had been in-

filtrated into the South on the day US Secretary of State Colin Powell was visiting Seoul and on the 25th anniversary of the assassination of South Korean President Park Chung-hee.

Yet South Korean financial markets barely reacted, and Powell took a relatively relaxed view, too.

"It did not come up in our dis-

cussions," he told reporters.

"I got word earlier this morning and we confirmed a few moments ago that there is an apparent small breach in the wire system coming south out of the DMZ and it's being looked into."

Security experts noted there were easier ways to sneak into the South than through a hole in the world's

most fortified border. Yet, on the peninsula, where the Koreans face off with a combined 1.8 million troops, such incidents are taken seriously.

Extra armed soldiers and police inspected every truck and checked car drivers at established and new checkpoints north of Uijongbu, between Seoul and the border.

Armored vehicles stood at some

roadblocks and machineguns could be seen on top of buildings in Dongduchon, where the US Army's 2nd Infantry Division is located. Further north, units searched the craggy mountains that cover much of the region.

A defense ministry spokesperson told reporters the South Korean military could, if necessary,

mobilize reserve forces along the border, which has bisected the peninsula since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce rather than a peace treaty.

"We are stepping up our security," said Hwang Jung-sun, the ministry's deputy director of operations. "We can't reveal details about the investigation for security reasons." Reuters

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Vatican lays out teaching against war, abortion

VATICAN CITY—A Vatican handbook has laid out Roman Catholic Church teaching questioning preventive war and denouncing the "horrendous crime" of abortion. But Vatican officials sidestepped questions on whether the war in Iraq was illegal or if Catholics can vote for candidates who back laws permitting abortion.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls quickly intervened at a news conference Monday when a top Vatican cardinal was asked if the faithful can cast ballots for a candidate who supports legalized abortion. "The Holy See never gets involved in electoral or political questions directly," he said.

US Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate, is a Catholic who has said that while personally opposed to abortion, he upholds the right of women to have one.

Pope John Paul II has vigorously championed the Vatican's long-standing opposition to abortion, which was denounced as a "horrendous crime" in the Vatican document released Monday.

"Far from being a right, it is a sad phenomenon," it said.

Some US churchmen, such as St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke, have said Kerry should be denied the sacrament of Communion.

Navarro-Valls said bishops could, if they desired, weigh in on campaign issues to "illuminate the consciences of the faithful with ethical elements so they can make a judgment" in elections.

Officials at the news conference described the 524-page compilation of doctrine as a kind of handbook which could help business, political and cultural leaders.

Appearing to break no new ground, the volume quoted extensively from, and offered reflections on, writings and speeches by Pope John Paul II and previous pontiffs on matters including preventive war, terrorism, the death penalty, immigration, workers' rights, poverty, globalization, free markets and human rights.

Under the heading "legitimate defense," the compendium stated that "engaging in a preventive war without clear proof that an attack is imminent cannot fail to raise serious moral and juridical questions."

Arguing that the war in Iraq was necessary, the administration of US President George W. Bush said in the run-up to the conflict that Iraq harbored weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons have turned up.

In apparent reference to the United Nations, the document said "international legitimacy for the use of armed forces, on the basis of rigorous assessment and with well-founded motivations, can only be given by the decision of a competent body that identifies specific situations as threats to peace and authorizes an intrusion into the sphere of autonomy usually reserved for a state."

The former Vatican envoy to the United Nations, Cardinal Renato Martino, was asked if "in hindsight," the US-led war against Iraq would be "illegal" in the eyes of the church.

The cardinal replied: "Did you read the address of the Pope to President Bush? Read it again." AP

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New Indon leader may ban Jemaah Islamiyah

JAKARTA—Indonesia will outlaw an al-Qaida-linked group blamed for deadly bombings in Southeast Asia if its existence can be proved and that its members are involved in terrorist activities, the new president said.

In an interview with Time magazine, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said he would review steps being taken to deal with terrorism and with the Jemaah Islamiyah group.

This review would include Islamic boarding schools suspected of having terror ties, he said.

His cautious comments on Jemaah Islamiyah may disappoint Western governments, who have no doubt about the network's presence in the world's most populous Muslim nation and who want the former general to confront terrorism head on.

"After the review, if there are explanations and proof that JI as an organization does exist in Indonesia, and if it is legally proven that its members are involved in terrorist activities, then it will be declared a banned organization," said Yudhoyono, who made fighting terror a campaign priority.

Yudhoyono gave no details on how Jemaah Islamiyah's existence would be proven, and whether it would require a court ruling.

His comments come two days before a militant cleric, Abu Bakar Bashir, faces trial on charges of leading Jemaah Islamiyah and involvement in the 2002 Bali blasts that killed 202 people and a strike at a luxury Jakarta hotel last year that killed 12.

Howard sworn in for 4th term

CANBERRA—John Howard was sworn in Tuesday for his fourth term as Australia's prime minister at a ceremony in the official residence of the British queen's representative, Governor General Michael Jeffery.

Howard won an increased majority for his conservative coalition government at Oct. 9 elections at which the booming Australian economy took center stage.

The Howard administration took credit for driving down unemployment, inflation and interest rates during more than eight years in power and warned voters that Labor governments had a history of pushing interest rates higher.

A total of 30 ministers and 12 junior ministers known as parliamentary secretaries were sworn in by Jeffery.

Tuesday's ceremony was a reminder of Australia's links to the British monarchy, with ministers swearing allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II, the nation's formal head of state.

In December, the 65-year-old Howard will overtake Bob Hawke's record as the second-longest serving prime minister of eight years,

Western countries and the United Nations have listed Jemaah Islamiyah as a terrorist organization. Banning the group would make it easier for Indonesia to make arrests and stem funding.

But the previous government, in which Yudhoyono was chief security minister until early this year, treaded carefully around the issue for fear of offending mainstream Muslims, partly because the term Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesia means Islamic community.

While Islamic groups have grown increasingly outraged at bomb attacks and accepted they are being carried out by Indonesians, memories also remain fresh of the persecution of Muslim leaders and activists by former President Suharto during 32 years of military-backed rule that ended in 1998.

Officials have also kept a hands-off approach to several conservative Islamic boarding schools, where some convicted bombers have studied and radical views are propagated.

Yudhoyono made clear the issue was sensitive. "This will require communication and the right approach so that law enforcement will not be misunderstood as the government doing something that is unfair toward certain individuals or religious schools," Yudhoyono said.

A number of Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah members have been convicted over the Bali bombings, but courts then did not make a point of trying to prove the existence of Jemaah Islamiyah, which wants to set up an austere Islamic state across Muslim areas of Southeast Asia. *Reuters*

nine months and 10 days.

The longest serving national leader was Sir Robert Menzies, founder of Howard's Liberal Party, who lasted more than 18 years.

Meanwhile, Labor leader Mark Latham announced Tuesday his so-called shadow Cabinet of lawmakers assigned to develop policies and challenge government ministers.

He made the surprise move of placing two former foes in key economic portfolios. Wayne Swan became shadow treasurer and Stephen Smith shadow minister for industry, infrastructure and industrial relations.

Both men supported Latham's rival for the Labor leadership, Kim Beazley, late last year.

Latham said Labor had to improve its economic policy performance before the next election.

"This is the area where, whether we like it or not, the Australian people made a judgment that our credentials weren't strong enough," Latham told reporters.

Both Swan and Smith guaranteed they would not challenge Latham's leadership during the next three-year term. *AP*

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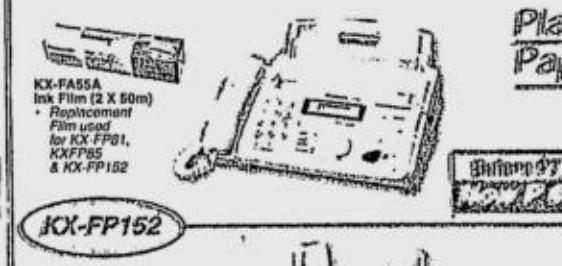
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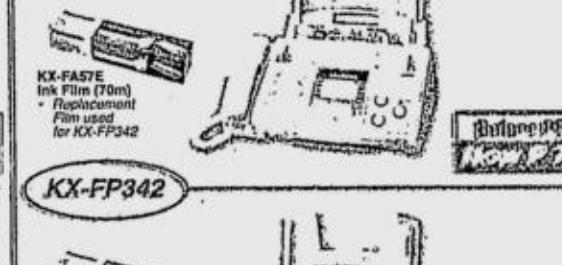
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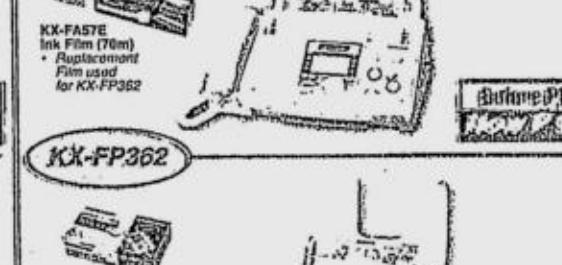
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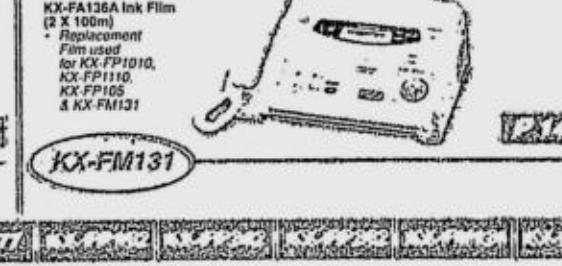
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Consolation prize

WHEN Sen. Panfilo Lacson said, "I don't think the congressmen realize that what they are investigating is [Major Gen.] Carlos Garcia's version of their own pork barrel," he had a point. The point primarily involves perception, but it's also an institutional one. Lacson told the press: "Assuming the allegations against General Garcia are true—that he took commissions from suppliers—what makes the difference between a general receiving commissions from a congressman or a senator receiving commissions from suppliers and contractors? It's the same banana."

EDITORIAL This is Lacson's point on perception: the public is not giving credit to the House of Representatives for looking into the accusations concerning Garcia. His institutional point is also fair: there is no difference, morally or, it can be argued, even legally, between a general skimming off the top and being on the take, and a legislator receiving commissions and bribes. Both represent people in authority violating their duties and acting irresponsibly. Both involve people on the public payroll breaking the law.

He also has a point in suggesting that his legislative colleagues "take a good look at themselves in the mirror before asking questions." But is it correct to suggest, as his statements imply, that Congress has no business mounting hearings on the Garcia case?

Congressional hearings are not part of the process of meting out justice. That is clear. Congress investigates only in aid of legislation. Does a hearing in aid of legislation include the congressional hearings that have taken on the characteristics of a fishing expedition?

A fishing expedition, in the sense used by media, is a hearing that attempts to trip up witnesses so that they will come up with information that incriminates either the witnesses or other people. It is a hearing undertaken not to verify facts for the purpose of arriving at informed legislation, but rather to come up with information for political purposes. If the congressmen, for example, who grilled Garcia had gotten him to confess, it would not have helped legislation, although it would certainly have made headlines and perhaps even helped the investigation into his actions.

However, only a court martial and the Office of the Ombudsman can actually do something about Garcia, and only (in the case of a court martial) after a trial by his peers or (in the case of the Ombudsman) a trial before a civilian judge. Congress in and of itself cannot mount either a criminal or administrative investigation or prosecution before the courts.

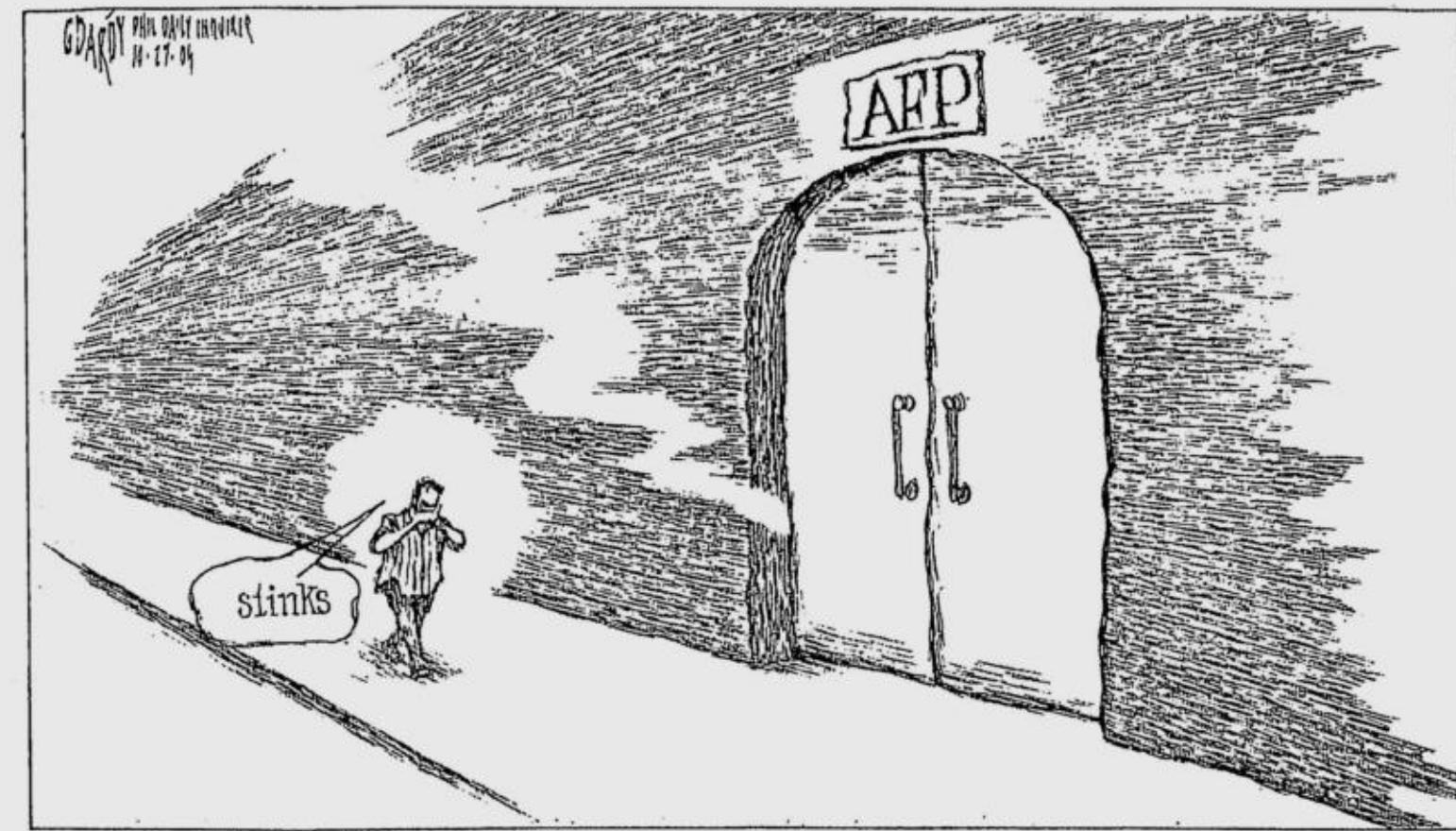
This is actually the essential point of Lacson's comments. It is a point that has been repeatedly made concerning Congress' use—and abuse—of its authority to hold hearings in aid of legislation. Lacson is fortunate that his colleagues in Congress have been tardy in pointing out the many ways their hearings could have actually aided legislation: for example, in amending the Articles of War, or in drafting a law putting the comptrollership of the Armed Forces in civilian hands, as has been suggested.

This only goes to show that Lacson's suspicion that his congressional peers are only interested in grandstanding, and not justice, might be true. It also serves to fortify the original points of Lacson.

But whether or not the House of Representatives didn't really mean to investigate in aid of legislation, the fact is, in however small a way, the hearings did help to show just how serious the case against Garcia is:

This has nothing to do with the fitness of individual legislators to make inquiries. Rooting out sinners does not require saints. Specifically, since the law is impersonal, its enforcement and operation do not require the enforcers to be law abiding. What it does mean is that the moral aspects of the law are subverted when insincerity and even guilt are suspected of those who try to wield the law.

This is where the concept of moral ascendancy comes in. The law would be much more effective if those who make the laws and enforce the laws are not suspected of ignoring the laws. As things stand, though, better crooks running after another crook, than no one running after crooks at all.



Down with irresponsible pet owners!

As I See It



Neal H. Cruz

(Compassion and Responsibility for Animals), an NGO, has documented cases where policemen and barangay tanods were the perpetrators of these heinous acts.

Ironically, the bond between man and dog go back 12,000 years. Since humans domesticated dogs, they are most happy when they are in our company. Their loyalty, love and trust are their gifts to us. There are many stories of dogs saving their masters' lives. The animals have been used as war dogs, working dogs, seeing-eye dogs, bomb- and drug-sniffing dogs, search dogs, etc.

As pets, scientific studies have proven that they reduce loneliness, depression and stress. Medically, they have been introduced as companions to patients in hospital wards and in homes for the elderly all over the world.

So why are we being cruel to them and killing them? Because of ignorance and lack of compassion, primarily. And in the worst irony of all, because governments think they are doing a good deed in rounding them up and killing them. It is to prevent the spread of rabies, a deadly and almost always fatal disease spread by the bite of a dog and other mammals. The risk of rabies in the Philippines is the fourth highest in the world. And because the number of stray dogs is increasing due to many irresponsible owners, local governments believe they are reducing the risk of rabies by killing stray dogs.

This is wrong on two counts. First, a study made in 1998 showed that 95 percent of dog bites did not come from street dogs but from those which had owners. Dogs are territorial and street dogs have no territories. It is the pet dogs that protect their territories by ag-

gressive behavior.

Second, killing dogs (and cats) will not reduce the stray population if we do not reduce the number of irresponsible pet owners. These owners allow their pets to breed indiscriminately and then give away the puppies and kittens in staggering numbers. More often, kittens are simply abandoned on sidewalks or vacant lots. These have hazardous lives, and are sometimes squashed by vehicles. Those that survive grow up by scavenging for food in garbage cans, wracked by disease and starvation, and breed more strays, that in turn, breed more.

Two unaltered dogs and their offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in six years. For cats, the number is much higher. There should be a law that punishes throwing away or abandoning kittens.

Filipinos usually take home puppies and kittens because they are cute. But once they grow up and cease to be cute and, worse, show signs of illness, they are turned out on the streets where they unwittingly compromise the health of the whole neighborhood.

As Cara Phils. said, "In our country dogs provide an important sense of security. However, here we find the paradox of people who don't really like dogs and yet will keep them to guard their homes. As a rule, these people are neither caring nor responsible owners. It is these owners' dogs that are usually allowed to scavenge on the streets for food and routinely let out to urinate and defecate on public property. As a result, this human irresponsibility leads to these dogs creating a public health hazard."

For many in our country, the dog is viewed not as a companion but as a necessary evil, so that neither time nor money is invested in ensuring good health.

Since dogs and cats are treated as dispensable and replaceable commodities, the abandoning of sick or unwanted dogs and cats is done with impunity. Invariably a neighbor's dog or cat will also have puppies and kittens and these will be given away. So the cycle of irresponsible ownership continues.

Solutions

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



WHAT'S astonishing about the sums the Armed Forces chiefs of staff have been playing around with like marbles is not just their size but their availability. Why this fortune should be theirs for the taking, only they, or those who approve their budget, can say.

I've been writing for all of my life, and I have yet to see a million pesos in one blow. I cannot look forward to retiring with just a million for my pains. I am not a regular employee and do not even get a 13th-month pay or regular bonus. So you will forgive me if my blood is boil that the chiefs of staff get to retire routinely with P300 million as nest egg. Maybe the sums are an exaggeration. But you halve them, or reduce them by three quarters, and they are still a fortune to most of us.

What in God's name makes the chiefs of staff more important than the rest of us? They risk their lives in doing duty? Well, journalists, particularly the provincial ones, do the same thing, and more of them have been killed in the line of duty over the past months than generals. Some of them did not even have the means for a decent burial. More than this, if the Oakwood mutineers were to be believed, it's not the generals who put their asses on the line in the field, it's the junior officers and their men.

The generals may only be found dashing off in helicopters to golf clubs in Zamboanga and elsewhere.

But if the generals have these sums to play around with, you wonder what the civilian officials have in their turn. No wonder the education department, which by law is entitled to the biggest budget (which isn't followed anyway, since the biggest slice goes to debt payments) has earned a reputation not for being the seat of enlightenment but for being the seat of corruption.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her officials have hastened to assure that a court martial of Carlos Garcia (what irony that he should be named after the Filipino president who launched "Pilipino First," which Diosdado Macapagal, who came after him, promptly undid) will not wreck the AFP; it will strengthen

it. It will strengthen it by cleansing it of its dregs. That presumes the muck ends with Garcia and doesn't flow upstream. Indeed, that presumes the muck ends with the generals and doesn't flow upward to their commander in chief.

As it is, GMA's culpability in this is patent, and not just by the principle of command responsibility. Her contribution to the corruption is direct. More immediately, it was her "revolving door" policy that made it possible. It produced four chiefs of staff in the same number of years, each one retiring with a pabao that could ransom a dozen kidnapped Chinese. Either GMA turned a blind eye to the practice or she actively abetted it. The latter is not unthinkable, given that she came to power through extra-constitutional means and has been vulnerable to uprisings, military or not.

On a broader and deeper level—and this one bears repeating again and again—it was her "war against terror" that catapulted corruption in the military to breathtaking heights. Especially in the first year after 9/11, when she echoed George W. Bush's line of "you are with me or against me," no one could question what government did, least of all its military operations. To do so was to be held up in derision as a terrorist-coddler or accused of treason. Fighting terrorism justified everything, including the curtailment of due process.

It was the culture of secrecy and paranoia unleashed by the "war against terror" that made the shit hit the fan, or unbridled corruption to hit the barracks. Until the US invasion of Iraq came along to disillusion even Filipinos, the last bastion of George W's imperial ambition, the generals were pretty much untouched.

able. No, they were pretty much infallible—what they said was ex-cathedra.

What will strengthen the military today is not just the court martial of Garcia, though I'd be first to applaud if that should happen and is prosecuted with zeal. Who knows? Maybe Garcia would be persuaded to talk then, especially if a verdict of guilty carries with it not just a dozen push-ups but a dozen rifles lined up in a firing squad. But more than this, what will strengthen the military, or indeed the country itself, is GMA apologizing to the country for having dragged it down the drain with her military adventurism. A military adventurism that gave new lease on life on the praetorian mentality of the men in uniform and made mutinies, quite apart from runaway corruption, possible.

What will strengthen the military is reducing the size of the AFP to a level that matches national priorities and giving it only the budget it deserves. None of this means overlooking terrorism or neglecting national security. All of this means fighting terrorism in the only way that it can be fought, with the judicious combination of intelligence, diplomacy and force, and by assuring national security in the only way it can be assured, by empowering the people so that they can have the means, opportunity and motive to defend themselves. As this country's experience shows, a huge military never combats terrorism or oppression anyway. It only adds to them.

Of course, we should try the corrupt generals (and civilian officials), and punish them when they are found guilty. Life doesn't go on with justice, a nation doesn't move on without rewarding the just and punishing the guilty. But we want permanent solutions to the corruption in the military, let's cut it down to size, physically and ideologically, to reflect its true place in our lives. Our greatest enemies today are not terrorists and communists, they are hunger and corruption. Hunger terrorizes and corruption subverts.

Everything else is just *moros-moros*. (My deepest apologies to Moros.)

AFP placed under searing scrutiny

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines has come under raking fire for alleged corruption following the disclosure that its former comptroller, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, had allegedly transferred about P44 million to his account in the United States and accumulated assets worth more than P50 million. Garcia faces a court martial, beginning on Friday, on general charges of unexplained wealth and corruption.

The disclosure has plunged the military into unprecedented turmoil. The Garcia scandal was followed by the privilege speech of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who revealed the mechanism of "institutionalized corruption" in the Armed Forces through the practice of "clearance and conversion"—a process presided over by what she called "Gang of 12," composed of general staff officers. The senator's speech piled up one shock after another, as it followed newspaper reports that alleged retiring AFP chiefs of staff received golden handshakes ranging from P100 million to P200 million each, drawn from the AFP's "centrally managed funds."

At no time in recent memory has the Armed Forces been more severely pummeled by corruption charges than it is today. The military's handling of public funds is under investigation by three bodies: the House of Representatives, the Ombudsman and the military court martial on the Garcia unexplained wealth case.

These inquiries are extraordinary events in that they have put the Armed Forces, the custodian of national security, under searing scrutiny for corruption, a malaise that is often associated with the civilian sector of public affairs. The Jose Pidal scandal that embroiled the first Arroyo administration before the last election is nothing compared with the military corruption controversy.

The gravity of these inquiries and their implication for the credibility of the Armed Forces as a key state institution that underpins political stability were correctly recognized by the former chief of

staff, retired Gen. Angelo Reyes, now interior secretary, and another retired chief of staff, Dionisio Santiago. A horrified General Santiago warned that the attacks on the military could result in destroying it. "This is too much already," he said. "They're trying to destroy the institution."

Echoing Santiago's concern, Reyes, whose own acquisition of assets has attracted scrutiny, told the House committees on national defense and banks that the allegations of corruption were undermining the foundations of the Armed Forces.

Although Reyes conceded that the congressional inquiry was in aid of legislation, he warned, "I feel that, as the proceedings have been going on, there are perceptions that imputations of irregularities are eroding an honorable profession, the profession of arms; that the institution of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the very institution that has been protecting the state and its people, is slowly being destroyed."

We should expect that more sordid details of corruption will surface in the court martial of Garcia, in the Ombudsman and in the House inquiry. With the bringing down of the Armed Forces to the ground of accountability, it has now joined the distinguished company of its civilian counterparts and other sectors of civil society. The inquiries show that the military is no longer a sacrosanct institution, immune from civil scrutiny, and untouchable because its monopoly of the means of state violence gives it the power of life and death over civilian regimes, threatened by civil unrest and disorder.

Bringing home HIV/AIDS

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



OVERSEAS Filipino workers are among the "sectors" of society most vulnerable to HIV infection.

Their vulnerability stems not just from their occupation, such as the good number of migrant women workers involved in the sex and entertainment industry, but also from their living and working conditions. Lonely and homesick, isolated and coping with foreign languages, cultures and even religions, cut off from their social support system of family and friends, OFWs find themselves craving for companionship while at the same time suddenly liberated from the social strictures that once governed their behavior. Emotional vulnerability combined with sexual license give rise to many risks, not least of which are sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

"In a country that has a nascent HIV/AIDS epidemic, almost one-third (of people testing positive for HIV) are former migrant workers," notes Maria Lourdes Marin, executive director of Action for Health Initiatives (Achieve) Inc., in her foreword to the book "For Good." "While this high figure may be a result of increased mandatory HIV testing of migrant workers, it gives evidence to an emerging concern, not just locally but globally. How does HIV/AIDS affect the lives of Filipino migrant workers? What do they go through when they get infected? What is the impact on those infected and affected by it? How do they cope, survive and pursue their dreams?"

These are the questions that Achieve, with its partners, Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (Caram)-Philippines and Kalayaan, sought to answer when they embarked in 1997 on a research project on the vulnerability of migrant workers to HIV/AIDS. With time, and with growing public awareness of the issue, as well as the emergence of several organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs), Achieve decided to extend the initial research work resulting in the documentation of the life stories of 11 migrant workers living with HIV/AIDS, contained in the book "For Good."

Indeed, the taboo against talking and seeking information about sexual matters explains why many...especially the women, hardly know anything about reproductive health when they first left the country. This also partly accounts for the failure of both sexes to practice or demand safe sex from their partners," the authors point out.

WHILE employed abroad, the workers mentioned the pressures they were subjected to not just from their immediate families but even friends and other relatives. Still, rather than give their families back home a realistic picture of their plight, the workers scramble to fulfill these

expectations, sometimes taking on second or third jobs just to earn enough to send home.

Note the authors: "The families do not understand the difficulty faced by migrant workers in trying to fulfill the demands placed on their shoulders. The migrant workers, however, give in to the demands of their families and keep silent about their problems." Certainly, a vicious cycle of expectations, pressure and silence.

Migrant workers, particularly women workers, are subject to a barrage of health tests before their deployment and in the course of their employment. And often, the manner by which they find out about their HIV status exacerbates the fear and insecurity such news brings.

"Lovely," for instance, was summoned by a clinic in Singapore and told to bring her employer with her. After first talking to the employer, the doctor in the clinic then bluntly told Lovely that she was HIV-positive. "Am I going to die?" she blurted out, to which the doctor replied coldly, "Everybody is going to die." The doctor then accused Lovely of bringing bad luck to his country. "Most HIV-positive in our country are migrant workers," the jerk said. "You are the ones bringing the virus to our country. So the best thing you could do is to get out of Singapore to avoid transmitting the virus."

If he had bothered to ask, Lovely had had only one partner while in Singapore, a Singaporean-Chinese.

IT is "highly likely" that the incidence of HIV infection among migrant workers will continue to rise in the coming years, the authors note. Among the reasons for this conclusion: migration increasingly becoming a more permanent economic option for many and the continued neglect of the link between migration and HIV/AIDS.

"In the final analysis," say the authors, "the impact of HIV/AIDS among migrant workers has a potential ripple effect, beginning with the individual...extending to his or her immediate family, expanding to the community, and eventually affecting the entire society."

Clearly, HIV/AIDS is not just "their" problem, it is ours.

Scary stories

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



HALLOWEEN is upon us again. In the village where I live, many families with children have put ghosts, goblins and ghouls outside their homes. Some have turned their front gardens into mock graveyards complete with tombstones, but the names are foreign. One house has a giant spider (actually black trash bags made to form a spider) sliding down a web attached to the carport. Another house has a complete horror castle complete with lights and creepy creatures.

These are all very creative displays mostly bought over the counter which may explain why I have not seen real pumpkins carved into scary faces with candles inside. Neither have I seen the real spooks in Philippine folklore: *kapre*, *tianak*, *manananggal*, *mangagaway*, *aswang*, etc. Halloween like some professional basketball players, is an import, a tradition that doesn't go very far back in the Philippines, but it is catching up.

It would be fascinating to know what scares Filipinos today. We are too urban for the *aswang* these days but there are other things to fear: criminals, criminals in police or military uniform, sexual predators, kidnappers, illegal recruiters, etc.

It would be fascinating to know the outcome of the First Capiz *Aswang* Festival this year. If Capiz is successful in drawing interest and tourists, perhaps other places could cash in on folklore like the witches of Siquijor or even the White Lady of Balete Drive, a hoar that has persisted over time like the Code of Kalantaw.

Over the years, I have come across some very strange stories that I cannot use in my historical writings even if they are very arresting. For example, there have been accounts of ghosts in the Casa Manila Museum in Intramuros. I've always doubted this because the structure is new. How can you have ghosts in a house reconstructed in the 1980s? There are reports of sightings of *Guardias Civiles* and another "White Lady" walling like Sisa of "Noli Me Tangere."

In contrast, there have been no ghosts reported in any of the Rizal shrines: Fort Santiago, Calamba and Dapitan. If there were, maybe I would take the trouble to talk to Rizal's ghost if only to answer a lot of questions that resulted from reading all his writings. You will find in Guillermo Tolentino's forgotten book "Si Rizal" a transcript of a séance where Trinidad Rizal is alleged to have spoken to her brother Jose through a medium. Unfortunately, the language is stilted and the content too boring to be true.

Emilio Aguinaldo's mansion in Kawit, Cavite, is a museum and a national shrine. It is an original structure and should house spirits, at least of the hero buried in a simple white marble tomb in the back of the house. But so far there are no stories of the general going through all the secret passages and hidden rooms in the house.

Twenty years ago when I first visited the shrine, I was told *kapre* rather than ghost stories.

A friendly *kapre* was said to inhabit an ancient mango tree near the master's bedroom. This creature would speak to the general either in his bedroom or the small room he kept on the tower of the house. A red light was allegedly seen on dark nights in this tree and it was said to be the lighted end of the *kapre's* cigar.

I cannot pinpoint one person who has seen the *kapre* or his lighted cigar. All we have are second- or third-hand accounts of sightings.

Why do these stories always come from the friend of a friend or a relative of a friend who can-

not be traced for full documentation? The *Kawit kapre* is supposed to have warned Aguinaldo of danger or the enemy, which partly explains why he survived assassins and the war. Despite a handful of sensational television reports on the *kapre*, this rumor has sort of faded away. Not too much horror effect here.

Another famous Halloween story that has also been forgotten concerns a painting by Juan Luna in the National Museum. It shows a woman in bed, with one breast exposed as if to seduce the viewer, but the disconcerting detail here is the rosary in her hands, and a prayer book on the night table. This curious mix of visuals led to a lot of speculation as to what the woman was trying to say or do or what Luna was trying to say or do. But we will leave that to art critics and psychiatrists and turn to the scary story.

This painting used to be known as the portrait of Paz Pardo de Tavera, until extant photographs proved that this was a different woman. One could argue that Luna made his wife prettier than she was, and I often use this painting to illustrate that love is indeed blind.

Like some paintings by Fernando Amorsolo depicting the horrors of the Japanese Occupation, this particular Luna painting has a reputation for bringing bad luck to people who own it: unexplained or unexpected death, illness or, worse, bankruptcy. It was even said that at certain times of the day, museum visitors would gaze on this beautiful woman and see her eyes turn red like glowing coals.

Again all are stories, and nothing has been documented so far.

In Europe, real estate especially old castles and manors, gain prestige if it has a resident historical ghost. In the Philippines, nobody will buy a haunted house. Now that is a cultural difference.

Comments are welcome at acoampo@ateneo.edu

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From Paris to Greenhills

TWO series of unfolding events in France and in the Philippines won't make it into front-page headlines but their outcomes can affect the lives of many people, for decades to come.

In France, effective Sept. 2, the government has banned the use of "overt" religious symbols in public schools, including Muslim headscarves for women (*hijab*), Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses.

In principle, the French ban is meant to uphold secularism

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

HERE at home, we also have a small storm brewing in the Greenhills district in San Juan, Metro Manila. I am referring to the opposition by some Greenhills residents and shop owners to the proposal to put up a *musallah* or Muslim prayer room in their shopping center. A resident told ABS-CBN news that a prayer room would turn Greenhills "into a haven of squatters, robbers and worse, terrorists," claiming this happened in Quiapo and Taguig after mosques were built there.

Secularism

There is one stark similarity between the ban in French schools and the opposition to a *musallah* in Greenhills: bigotry, mainly targeting Muslims and invoking the threat of terrorism. But there are differences in the way the prejudice is disguised.

In France, the ban on "overt" religious symbols invokes the principle of secularism, which the French have insisted on since the French Revolution in the 18th century. The Roman Catholic Church had been identified with the oppression of the French aristocracy and so secularism was intended to end the domination of the Catholics over the state. There was, too, the influence of the French enlightenment philosophers Voltaire, Diderot and Montesquieu who saw religion as divisive and intolerant.

The French debates have relevance to Filipinos. We also subscribe to the separation of Church and State. Last year, University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo issued a memo reminding faculty that the university, as a state institution, needed to remain neutral when it came to religion. Specifically, he pointed out that classes and other official functions were not to start off with a prayer or invocation. The memo came as a result of a law student's complaint that one faculty member had been starting her classes with a Catholic prayer.

I wrote about that memo some months back, expressing my agreement and arguing that it's not just in state universities but in any institution used by the public (for example, hospitals) where we need to maintain secularism, not in opposition to religion but, precisely, as a way of respecting religious freedom and the diversity of faiths.

Having said all this, I would disagree with the French government ban, which is so clearly instigated by a lack of understanding of the so-called religious symbols. First, a headscarf isn't going to stoke the flames of Islamic extremism any more than a large cross on a necklace would fan Catholic fanaticism.

Second, the French ban fails to see that the so-called religious symbols actually transcend faith. The *hijab* isn't just an expression of Islam; in fact, some of those who oppose the *hijab* see it more as a symbol of the oppression of women. Yet, Muslim women themselves will explain that the veils have many meanings, including an expression of one's identity. One Muslim woman anthropologist has even described the *burqa*, which covers the entire body, as "portable seclusion," giving a sense of protection from intrusive eyes, including those of religious conservatives. Underneath the *burqa*, Muslim women have been known to use cosmetics and wear high heels!

It's not surprising the French are now caught in a quagmire because the ban on religious symbols has been interpreted by one school to extend to Sikh turbans. Last week, when one school banned three Sikh boys from using their turbans, the parents brought the case to court. Again, there is a lack of cultural competence here, the inability to see the turbans not just as an expression of the Sikh religion but of a Sikh ethnic identity.

Religious apartheid

The issue then is one of cultural liberty, which the United Nations defines as the ability to practice one's own religion, to speak one's language, to celebrate one's ethnic heritage, without fear of ridicule or punishment or diminished opportunity."

"Diminished opportunity" are the keywords here. In the Greenhills controversy, some Christians argue that a Muslim prayer room is inappropriate because the area is largely Catholic. But we forget that there are some 400 Muslim traders in the Greenhills Shopping Center. Islam requires prayer five times a day and the Muslims in Greenhills have been doing this in an empty space at the side of a building, a stone's throw away from a large Catholic chapel. A *musallah* would allow Muslims equal opportunities with Catholics to practice their religion in a more decent, secured space.

This is why I've always argued that UP, despite its secular nature, must provide at least a *musallah* for its Muslim students, simply because we already have Catholic and Protestant students within the campus.

Of course, the best solution to all this—whether in Greenhills or on UP campuses—is to have ecumenical rooms or buildings where people of all faiths can worship and reflect. You see such rooms in the world's major airports, a testimony to the multicultural age we live in.

Muslim traders are now found in the country's major urban centers and I've always felt their businesses are a good thing, a chance for Muslims and Christians to interact. I've talked with both Christian and Muslim business people in Greenhills, Quiapo, Baguio and they generally agree they are able to co-exist peacefully.

The absence of a *musallah* in Greenhills will only reinforce the tendency of Muslims to retreat into ghettos, practicing their faith apart from Christians. We are in a sense creating religious apartheid (an Afrikaans/Dutch word that means apart-ness), imposing our own mental *hijabs* on our Muslim brothers and sisters and keeping them mysterious, forbidding and threatening.

How do parents in France, and in the Philippines, explain to their children why there is this religious apartheid? At best, the next generation will shrug this off as ignorance. It could be worse though, as religious extremists capitalize on this apartheid to prove how religious minorities are persecuted. The next generation may yet reap a bitter harvest from our intolerance and bigotry.

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Migrante wrong on OWWA policies

MIGRANTE International is dead wrong in claiming that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) omnibus policies are "unjust." (PDI, 10/06/04)

It is erroneous to associate the \$25 (about P1,400) fee with an alleged "administration attempt to foist on the OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) the burden of the fiscal crisis." The contributions are pooled together purposely to provide insurance and other assistance for OWWA members and their families. The legal basis for

the fund is Letter of Instructions 537, which mandates the collection of the membership contribution. Moreover, in line with the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (RA 8042), which upholds the role and functions of the OWWA, the omnibus policies delineate clear guidelines on OWWA membership and coverage, the collection of contributions and the availment of benefits.

Secondly, the policies plainly set forth the services and benefits OWWA members are entitled to,

wherever and whenever the need arises. For \$25, the OWWA member is entitled to P100,000-P200,000 life insurance, P2,000-P50,000 disability and dismemberment benefits, P100,000 total disability benefits, P20,000 burial benefits, and P40,000 pre-departure and family assistance loans.

OWWA also allocates P6 million annually for OFWs wanting to avail of technical and training assistance. The agency also provides P30,000 per semester each to some 100 OFWs and their families annually for its college scholarship program. Another P10 million is allocated yearly for its seafarers' upgrading program. Its reintegration program also provides livelihood loans to returning OFWs.

Over and above the programs and services extended to OWWA members, non-members in various job sites with labor-related problems are also assisted in the form of case settlements and repatriation.

Overall, the omnibus policies protect the OFW members' welfare and contribution in recognition of the maximum benefits that they deserve.

May we assure Migrante that the OWWA and the Philippine government, for that matter, have always sought to assist OFWs, including distressed non-OWWA members, to the fullest measure possible.

The main problem with Migrante is that it campaigns against OWWA membership and coverage and yet it wants to avail of its benefits!

May I add that Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, ex-officio

chair of the OWWA, has caused the increase in OWWA funds from P2 billion to about P8 billion within the past two years. We figure that within the next year, OWWA's operating expenses can be drawn from interest earnings, thereby assuring more and continued benefits for OFWs.

—JEFFREY D. CORTAZAR, assistant secretary, Department of Labor and Employment, Intramuros, Manila

Consumerism as a nightmare

OCTOBER is Consumer Welfare Month. It may be worthwhile to reflect at this time why the consumer movement in the Philippines is timid and can hardly compare with those in other civilized countries. What we see around here are consumer organizations conferring awards on undeserving businesses after a questionable, non-transparent selection process. And there are the so-called consumer watchdogs who sound exactly as if they were the spokespersons of certain industry groups.

It is but natural for consumers to complain about poor products and services. And it is the duty of the government to protect the rights of consumers, as mandated by the Philippine Constitution. But based on my 12-year experience as a consumerist, consumer activism is a risky exercise in this country. It is only for those who have the determination of a martyr. It is a quixotic struggle where you have to fight the dragons of irresponsible and greedy corporations. Asserting your rights as a consumer, or fighting for other consumers, is like daring the fires of hell to engulf you.

We have here corporate mafias and gangsters that don't care about public relations and goodwill; that are so focused only on profits at all cost that they wouldn't mind fooling the consumers.

When you go against them, they send their attack dogs from top law firms against you. And their calvary begins.

Our courts of justice are virtually an arena of persecution and oppression under the control and manipulation of top law firms such that one can't help feeling like he is in a repressive state and not in a republican government. One begins to doubt whether the country is merely pretending to be a democratic state. One feels so disappointed that he would sometimes wish for Ka Roger Rosal's brand of justice.

Where else in this modern world can you find consumerists who—after fighting for others, particularly the poor and the marginalized—are treated like perpetrators of heinous crimes, tried four times a month in separate courts, their right to a consolidation of cases ignored and denied? Only in the Philippines! And it's a nightmare.

Believe me, after 12 years, this has been my bitter experience in the Philippine consumer movement.

We can only call God for help and salvation. And we hope that Senators Mar Roxas, Alfredo Lim and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. will take note of this and take the cudgels for consumers.

—VIC DEL FIERRO JR., president, Coalition for Consumer Protection & Welfare Inc., 104 Gaiety St., Annex 18, Better Living, Parañaque City

Intriguing ERC move

WE vehemently protest the action of the Energy Regulatory Commission when it conducted a public consultation on the "Guidelines for the Automatic Adjustment of Generation Rates and System Loss Rates by Distribution Utilities" last Oct. 4 without inviting the consumers. We only came to know of the public consultation from the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc. (Nascore), which in turn came to know about it that very day. Ironically, not even the Consumer Affairs Department of the commission was aware of the forum.

As can be gleaned from the topic of consultation, we can only surmise that its implementation will again burden the consumer. If this were so, wouldn't it have been proper for the ERC to ensure consumer attendance in the "consultation" in the light of its mandate, which is "promoting consumer protection"?

Because the ERC chose not to invite us, we are inclined to believe that the ERC does not consider consumers to be a necessary part of that "public consultation." It intrigues us no end how the commission will be able to come up with intelligent and unbiased guidelines without hearing the side of the consumers who bear the brunt of any rate adjustment it approves.

We are requesting the honorable commission to allow us the chance to participate in the consultation by extending the deadline on the submission of comments on the draft guidelines, and also to conduct a separate public consultation with consumers.

—DR. BONIFACIO C. DAZO, president, Federation of Las Piñas Homeowners Association, Las Piñas City, bd_dazo@yahoo.com; SIEGFRIED VELOSO, president, Federation of Village Association, Muntinlupa City, siegveloso@yahoo.com

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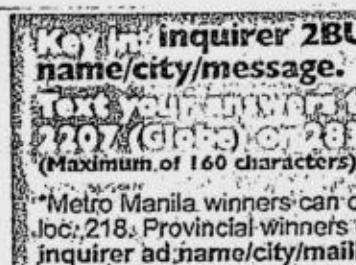


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Lotto Tripping

By Ferdinand Mendoza

FOUR FACTORY workers agreed to place their bets on just one lottery number combination and won eight million pesos. Each received a share of P2 million which they all spent on non-stop shopping and drinking sprees. It didn't take a year before they realized they had spent all their lottery winnings. Worse, they were over their heads in debt!

A tricycle driver from Iloilo won P18 million. He came with his lawyer who "helped" him claim his prize. The driver went home with only P500,000 in his pocket. The rest was with his lawyer.

Some 915 Filipinos have joined the multi-million peso lottery winner's circle since it began in 1995. What do you do if the next one is you?

Gloria Araullo, PCSO Treasury Department Manager, stressed that lottery winners need to keep their presence of mind when they claim their prize.

"Most of the time, winners seem to lose their wits. Some even get paranoid, thinking that something bad might happen to them," she said.

Araullo added, however, that this was quite understandable. "Imagine if you win millions of pesos, wouldn't you feel the same way?"

As a safety measure, she advises winners that a 30-day time deposit for their money is the best first step after collecting their prize.

"This will give them ample time to think about how they will spend their money. Also, their winnings will increase since a 30-day time deposit earns considerable interest," explained Araullo.

Araullo, who has been in charge of releasing checks to lottery jackpot winners for the past six years, has become a mother of sorts to lottery winners. Some occasionally visit her and regale her with their experiences after winning the lottery.

Araullo cautioned that it is not good for winners to indulge in shopping sprees or to engage in overly generous acts soon after collecting their prize money.

In 2003, an urban poor community resident who hit the P19-million lottery jackpot was murdered after purchasing a van.

"We asked him what he would do with his money. He said that he would use part of it to renovate their church which had no walls and chairs. All went well until he bought a van and began giving freebies to his neighbors and relatives. Word got around fast that he won in the lottery. He was dead in less than a month," said Araullo.

Fortunately for lottery players, majority of the true-to-life stories of lottery winners are of the "happily ever after" kind.

A farmer from Bicol got his lucky number from the sack of fertilizer. He harvested the

P32 million lottery jackpot prize.

A mother was cleaning her kitchen when a can of biscuit fell on her head. She saw numbers written on the can, bet on the number, and hit the jackpot.

When a kangkong vendor from Batangas hit the jackpot, she told her daughter — while Araullo was handing her the check: "Anak, bukas, hindi na tayo magka-kangkong [Daughter, tomorrow, we will no longer sell kangkong]."

The vendor, a mother of five children, had led a miserable life before winning the lottery.

Narrated Araullo: "She told me how she (vendor) had to wake up very early each morning to harvest kangkong in a swamp and to sell it in a nearby market. If there is no kangkong to harvest, her family will go without food for that day."

In another instance, a mother of eight, whose eldest daughter works as an entertainer in Japan, hit the P145 million lottery jackpot prize. In tears, the winner — who had spent her most productive years as a *mayordoma* to a wealthy family in Bacolod — told Araullo: "Pauwiin ko na ang anak ko bukas imula sa Japan [I will send for my daughter first thing tomorrow]."

Araullo observes that next to an upgraded economic status, a good number of lottery winners also undergo a drastic makeover in looks.

"I am surprised by the change in their appearance within months after winning the jackpot. In some cases, I do not recognize the winner anymore," Araullo said with barely disguised mirth.

She said that winners often tell her that they would prefer not to change their lifestyle. However, this is not always the case.

"Some claim their prize wearing ragged clothes and worn-out thong slippers. But when they visit me months later, they appear in fashionable clothes and leather shoes," said Araullo.

Beyond looks, however, security still seems to be the foremost concern of lottery winners.

Said Araullo: "They (winners) are always scared to be identified. Some are even afraid to have their photos taken."

Recently, an unnamed soldier made the news after being declared the winner in the P87-million 6/49 lottery draw. The soldier was with his brother and father when

he claimed his prize.

Araullo bared, however, that the soldier disclosed that it was his brother who actually made the winning bet. But because the brother feared something unfortunate might happen to him if he was declared the winner, he asked his soldier-brother to claim the prize in his behalf.

Lotto winners come from different walks of life — from farmer to businessman. "There was even a time when a banker hit the jackpot," Araullo said.

There is no exact formula for guessing the winning number combination of every draw. Still, Araullo disclosed that from the experience of past lottery winners, the numbers that hit the jackpot the most tend to correspond to dates that were of personal importance to the lottery winner. This could range from birthdates of love ones to anniversary dates, or even a death anniversary date. "Italos lahat ng nanalo ay may alayang numero [Majority of the winners had a favored number combination]," remarked Araullo.

Other sources of winning numbers, Araullo revealed, could be those numbers volunteered by friends or relatives, and those supplied by the computer or what is known as the "lucky pick."

A former Citibank executive and now Hong Kong-based businessman offered this tip to lottery players: "Religiously and consistently bet on just one number combination in only one game (6/42 or 6/45 or 6/49). If you bet on every draw for that one game you chose, you will most likely hit the jackpot within three years. The question, however, is how much will the jackpot prize be, by the time your number hits the jackpot?"

Well, this early, it's safe to say it will be in the millions of pesos, at the very least.

Araullo said it takes less than an hour to claim the jackpot prize, which comes in the form of a check.

A winner should proceed first to the Internal Audit Department to have the winning ticket verified. Upon verification, the winner will be given a claim form which he/she has to give to the treasury department for check preparation. Araullo serves as one of the two signatories of the check. The other signatory is the PCSO General Manager.

After the check has been prepared and signed by its duly-authorized signatories, the next and final step would be the waiting hands of the victorious lottery jackpot winner. Happy betting!

Playing catch-up with Lotto? New sweepstakes gimmick raises player's chance to win from 1 to 30 days

by Darcy Geronimo

WITH LOTTO SALES revenues outstripping the sales take of sweepstakes tickets, officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) have come up with a new gimmick that is expected to renew public interest in the sweepstakes.

The new sweepstakes game is called "Isang sweepstakes ticket, Isang buwang araw-araw papremyo." It will make a sold sweepstakes ticket eligible to win for thirty draw days, instead of the traditional one ticket-one draw play.

"We have increased the shelf-life of every purchased ticket to 30 days. This translates to increasing a player's chance to win by 30 times for every ticket bought," said Nilo C. Chineuaneo, PCSO assistant general manager for marketing.

Chineuaneo added that draws will be held daily for 30 days in this new sweepstakes game. Tickets that have already won will still be included in the daily draw.

A jackpot prize of P100,000 and consolation prizes amounting to another P100,000 will be given

every day, for a total of about P6.5 million in prizes every month.

Chineuaneo reminded sweepstakes players, however, that they have to purchase the tickets before the Daily Sweepstakes Draw for every month begins.

"The ticket is good for a month when it is purchased before the draw month begins," he explained, "But if the ticket is purchased sometime within the month, the number of chances to win decreases, depending on when you purchased the ticket."

Chineuaneo further elaborated that daily jackpot prizes not won in particular days will be added to a pot that would be drawn at the end of the month.

PCSO officials hope that the new game will revive public interest in the sweepstakes, which had been temporarily suspended because of poor patronage. They add that the new game is expected to rake in P4.2 million for the agency's Charity Fund.

As stated in the PCSO Charter, 30 percent of all earnings from sweepstakes and lottery sales go to charity. The Charity Fund is the PCSO's sole source of

funds used for rendering medical assistance to indigent individuals and for providing endowments to hospitals.

Rey Carlos Concepcion, a computer technician based in upscale Makati, said that the new sweepstakes game is more attractive to the buying public since a person has more chances of winning.

"Bibili ako nito kasi kung kasali ako buong buwan, mas malaki ang tsansa ko na manalo. Mas madaling manalo dito kaysa dun sa dati," said Concepcion.

"Isang sweepstakes ticket, Isang buwang araw-araw papremyo" will start in December this year. Marketing and actual selling of the tickets are due next month.

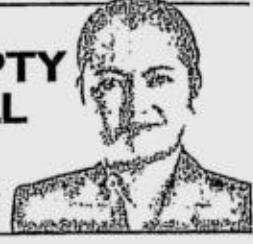
Draws will be held every 4 p.m. at the PCSO Draw Court, PCSO Compound, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City. All draws will be telecast at 9 p.m. during the Lotto draws on NBN 4.

Tickets will be sold through the PCSO Provincial District Offices, Sales Supervisors, Provincial Distributors, Sales Representatives, and Sales Department Tellers.

Who are the lottery winners? Is there a formula for hitting the jackpot? How can you protect yourself and your money when you win?

Gardens of Wisdom from the Internet (Two ways of interpreting a Chinese folk tale)

HALF-EMPTY HALF-FULL



Rosario C. Uriarte

LAST SATURDAY, an e-mail letter I received from a friend contained a very interesting folk tale. It told of a water bearer from China who carried water everyday using two earthenware pots — one with a crack on it and the other, in perfect shape. The cracked pot considered itself a miserable failure because it could only carry half the water that the perfect pot could deliver in full. Months later, the cracked pot asked its master why it was still being used to get water. The master answered that the cracked pot, despite its flaw, served him well. For he had planted flower seeds on the side of the road where water from the cracked pot leaked. The seeds yielded fragrant flowers that gave his home color and made his wife very happy. "Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house," the water bearer said.

In her letter, my friend said the moral of the story was simple: *We all have our own cracks and flaws. But it is these cracks and flaws that make our lives interesting and rewarding.*

I guess that is one of the moral lessons that can be derived from such a quaint tale. But when I retold the story to another friend of mine, she remarked that it is the water bearer who is the wizard and the source of wisdom in the story. It is the water bearer who assessed the flaw of the cracked pot, found a way to make the pot useful despite its cracks, and most important of all, proceeded to work and eventually, realized the advantage that a leaking cracked pot can bring to an ingenious water bearer.

Funny how situations in life can teach different lessons to different people. Some of us look beyond the flaws and see the individual who, despite being flawed, has a definite purpose or role in society. Some, however, look beyond the flaw and the flawed individual, and focus more on observing, appreciating, and learning from the processes that transform flaws and flawed individuals into assets and strengths.

These days, many Pinoys seem to liken our nation to the mythical cracked pot in the Chinese folk tale — a nation full of cracks and flaws. One need only to switch to the news channel to find angry viewer comments on corruption and poverty, or some other problem, scrolled at the bottom of the TV screen. And yet, after the fire and fury of anger have been vented, what do most of us do about these problems?

"We go home and drown our disgust in beer," said a male cousin of mine who had complained about the rising crime in the city.

"Nothing," admits a friend, "What can I do, I am just an ordinary person, without money and connections."

I guess those responses more or less depict the range of behavioral options most disgruntled Pinoys take.

Still, there are some who, like the water bearer in the Chinese tale, employ creative solutions to problems most people would just crab about.

Take for example, the women of the Banahaw Sustainable Community Development Center and their *Halaman Buhay: Pagkain, Gamot at Pagkakaita* project.

Daphne Roxas, executive director of Banahaw SusDev and veteran women's rights activist Justice Leonor Ines Luciano are teaching urban poor women to grow herbs, edible flowers, and vegetables by making the most of the small open spaces in these women's homes. They also train the women in organic farming, garbage recycling, and composting.

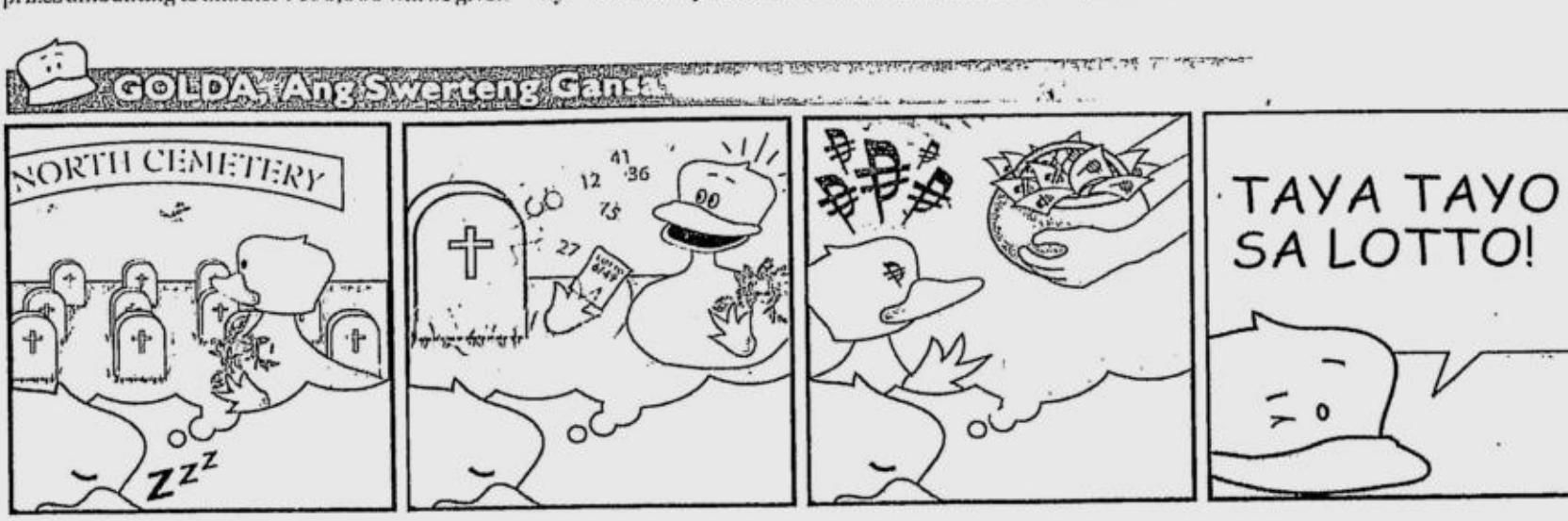
"We wanted to help urban poor women keep abreast with the difficult times. We began a dispersal and technology scheme that will allow women to benefit from the plants they raise, without further stressing their environment," said Roxas.

From an initial community of just one in Marikina, Banahaw SusDev now has three communities, each community composed of women's groups that have 10 to 15 members.

And how much does each woman participate in the project? Banahaw SusDev organizers said the individual income from sold herbs alone range from P750 to P1,500 a month. Of course, there is the added bonus of seeing what was once a row of run-down shacks turn into almost quaint little homes with windows, frontages, and even roofs covered by sweet-smelling basil, peppermint, rosemary, and other green herbs.

Think about it. Poverty and hunger in poor communities alleviated, not by the government or the church or big business, but by everyday people like you and I — women who took it upon themselves to help solve very real problems and did. Now, if we can only convince more Filipinos to do the same.

Rosario C. Uriarte is the General Manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Kindly e-mail all comments, suggestions to malakong_gamot@yahoo.com



INQUIRER Northern Luzon

A FISHERMAN tows his boat to shore in one of the islets of Pangasinan's Hundred Islands.

RYAN AMOR

A troubled paradise

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Alaminos City

ALK of Pangasinan tourism and the Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) in Alaminos City instantly comes to mind.

After all, the Hundred Islands is the province's premier tourist attraction—a diverse ecosystem of overgrown corals that compose the 123 islands and islets and where the sand, sea and sun work together to bring about a variety of flora and fauna.

Every year, the 1,844-hectare HINP attracts thousands of visitors who want to enjoy this wonderful gift of nature. But each year, too, the threats to its ecological beauty become so real that unless authorities strengthen their resolve to protect and conserve it, the country's first national park may just go to waste.

The HINP, declared a national park by President Manuel L. Quezon in 1940, was first managed by the Bureau of Forestry and later, by the Hundred Islands Conservation and Development Authority.

The HICDA then leased it to the provincial government, which turned over its management

to the Philippine Tourism Authority in 1980. When former agrarian reform secretary Hernani Braganza became mayor of the 2-year-old Alaminos this year, he decided that the local government must "co-manage" the HINP, citing the city charter that identified the islands as part of its territory.

Braganza said a memorandum of agreement would be signed by the city government with the PTA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the co-management of the islands.

He said the city had created an "environmentally sustainable" development plan aimed at attracting more tourists to the islands while protecting and sustaining them as a marine reserve and establishing a zoning plan, including a marine sanctuary.

As the city government dreams big of developing the HINP and making Alaminos the "center of tourism and tourist destination in Northern Luzon," it also has to address the ecological problems that threaten the very existence of the islands.

A briefing paper on the HINP cited problems such as insufficient resources for tourism development and environment protection, lack of tourism services and facilities, lack of marketing, poor visitor safety and security system, lack of enforcement of marine reserve guidelines on illegal fishing and poaching of corals, shells, bonsai and lumber, and lack of waste management system.

The paper did not mention the proliferation of commercial and residential establishments within the foreshore area of Lucap (jump-off point to the HINP), proliferation of fish pens, and the conversion of a 46-hectare area into fishponds.

These problems have long been acknowledged by the agencies that agree that the HINP needs conservation and protection from environmental degradation.

When the PTA, DENR and the National Committee of Geological Sciences declared the HINP a "Geological Monument" on Oct. 26, 2001, a ray of hope that the problems would be addressed shone. The efforts, however, came to naught.

Blight

Right smack in the HINP is a 45-hectare area leased to a group of fishermen from Alaminos by the PTA in 1980. The fishermen formed the Bolo Development Cooperative (Bolodeco) to develop a swampy mangrove area within the park into fishponds. The cooperative has 221 members.

In 1993, the Department of Agrarian Reform granted the application of Bolodeco for a certificate of land ownership agreement (CLOA) for the area under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). This, despite Executive Order No. 506 issued in 1992 by then President Corazon Aquino, excluding national parks and other protected areas, from segregation, acquisition and distribution by the DAR.

An environmental group said it had a copy of the DENR's initial protected area plan for the reclassification of the HINP from a national park to a protected landscape/seascape.

"In this plan, Bolodeco was shown to be a threat," the group said.

The presence of the Bolodeco still serves as the major threat to the marine ecosystem of the national park (as it) will eventually result (in) the abundance of organic wastes coming from fish meals. These wastes then upset the marine area's ecological balance, thereby threatening the survival of other marine species and organisms endemic in the area," the group quoted the DENR assessment.

The department has also acknowledged that the fishponds and cages developed by Bolodeco have affected the water quality at the southeastern portion of the park.

"Marine life within the park is threatened by siltation, increase of carbon dioxide, and pollution. Water quality at the recreational islands like Quezon's, Governor's and Children's, is being monitored by the DENR and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources," the agency said in its website.

Legal issues also hound Bolodeco's CLOA.

"Can a private cooperative acquire ownership of land within the national park? Is the HINP considered agricultural land that it could be covered by a CLOA? Can a private cooperative be considered a farmer beneficiary for the issuance of CLOA? Did the DAR have an authority to issue that CLOA?" the environmental group asked.

In August 1999, the PTA asked the DAR Adjudication Board (DARAB) to declare the CLOA null and void *ab initio* (from the start).

The PTA also asked Bolodeco to surrender the CLOA to the DAR and for the agency to cancel it, to revert the area to public domain, and to issue a permanent injunction against the cooperative in exercising rights of ownership.

Answering the PTA's petition, Bolodeco insisted that the acquisition of the fishponds inside the HINP was aboveboard because two Philippine presidents had authorized the award of the area.

The fishermen claimed that Aquino issued EO 407 in 1990 authorizing the issuance of the CLOA by the DAR. Then President Fidel V. Ramos later authorized the issuance of the original Certificate of Transfer 2077 to Bolodeco, which was registered with the registry of deeds of Pangasinan.

With Cebu Pacific's new schedule, you won't miss a thing!



ORIGIN: MANILA

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES | | | |
|--|---------|----------------|------|------|------|---------------|--------|--------|---------|
| | | | | | | NORMAL | VALUE | SMART | LIGHT |
| TRAVEL VALIDITY | | | | | | | | | |
| CEBU | 5J-557 | Daily | DC9 | 0130 | 0240 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-559 | MOT/UNWE/FR/SA | DC9 | 0500 | 0610 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-561 | Daily | DC9 | 0700 | 0810 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-563 | Daily | DC9 | 0900 | 1010 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-567 | Daily | DC9 | 1300 | 1410 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-577 | WE/TH/SA/SU | DC9 | 1325 | 1435 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | P1,299* |
| | 5J-569 | Daily | DC9 | 1500 | 1610 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-571 | Daily | DC9 | 1700 | 1810 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-573 | WE/TH/FR/SU | DC9 | 1900 | 2010 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| *not valid for travel on October 20 & 31 | | | | | | | | | |
| DAVAO | 5J-961 | Daily | DC9 | 0430 | 0510 | P3,667 | P3,239 | P2,699 | |
| | 5J-963 | Daily | DC9 | 1020 | 1200 | P3,667 | P3,239 | P2,699 | |
| | 5J-965 | Daily | DC9 | 1310 | 1455 | P3,667 | P3,239 | P2,699 | |
| | 5J-967 | Daily | DC9 | 1540 | 1725 | P3,667 | P3,239 | P2,699 | |
| AGAYAN DE ORO | 5J-381 | Daily | DC9 | 0510 | 0635 | P3,645 | P2,339 | P2,699 | |
| | 5J-383 | Daily | DC9 | 0930 | 1055 | P3,645 | P2,339 | P2,699 | |
| TACLOBAN | 5J-651 | Daily | DC9 | 0610 | 0720 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-653 | Daily | DC9 | 1150 | 1300 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-657 | SU | DC9 | 1410 | 1520 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| ILOILO | 5J-451 | Daily | DC9 | 0520 | 0620 | P2,779 | P2,449 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-453 | Daily | DC9 | 0640 | 0740 | P2,779 | P2,449 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-455 | Daily | DC9 | 0900 | 1000 | P2,779 | P2,449 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-459 | Daily | DC9 | 1540 | 1640 | P2,779 | P2,449 | P2,229 | |
| BACOLOD | 5J-473 | Daily | DC9 | 0510 | 0615 | P2,779 | P2,449 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-475 | Daily | DC9 | 1000 | 1105 | P2,779 | P2,449 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-477* | Daily | DC9 | 1450 | 1555 | P2,779 | P2,449 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-479 | Daily | DC9 | 1650 | 1755 | P2,779 | P2,449 | P2,229 | |
| *effective until November 03 | | | | | | | | | |
| ZAMBOANGA | 5J-851 | Daily | DC9 | 0520 | 0655 | P3,667 | P3,239 | P2,699 | |
| ROXAS | 5J-373 | Daily | DC9 | 0500 | 0555 | P2,539 | P2,149 | P1,999 | |
| DUMAGUETE | 5J-625 | MOT/WE/FR | DC9 | 0520 | 0635 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,279 | |
| | 5J-627 | Daily | DC9 | 1235 | 1350 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,279 | |
| KALIBO | 5J-339 | MOT/WE/SA | DC9 | 0920 | 1010 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| | 5J-341 | TU/TH/FR/SU | DC9 | 1115 | 1205 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,229 | |
| BUTUAN | 5J-787 | TU/TH/FR/SU | DC9 | 0920 | 1045 | P3,645 | P3,239 | P2,699 | |
| | 5J-223 | MON/WE/SA | DC9 | 1200 | 1300 | P3,645 | P3,239 | P2,699 | |
| PUERTO PRINCESA | 5J-637 | Daily | DC9 | 0845 | 0955 | P2,899 | P2,499 | P2,279 | |
| | 5J-727 | TU/TH/FR/SU | DC9 | 1225 | 1325 | P2,899 | P2,499 | P2,279 | |
| SUBIC | 5J-104 | TH/SU | DC9 | 1530 | 1600 | P500 | | | |
| | 5J-104* | TH | DC9 | 1500 | 1530 | P500 | | | |
| | 5J-104* | SU | DC9 | 1520 | 1550 | P500 | | | |
| TAGBILARAN | 5J-619 | Daily | DC9 | 0715 | 0835 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P2,279 | |

ORIGIN: CEBU

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-------|------|-----|-----|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | NORMAL | VALUE | SMART | LIGHT |
| TRAVEL VALIDITY | | | | | | | | | |

Princess stark simple in dinner to raise P20M

From page A1

online is president.

Amade Mondiale, which means World Association of Children's Friends, was founded by the princess' mother, the iconic Hollywood actress Grace Kelly.

The organizers' target was a whopping P20 million that evening. They didn't get that, just a bit close to that. The money should continue supporting the 12 houses put up to house about 300 disadvantaged children and help build more.

It must have been Metro Manila society's first experience on how royalty uses its cachet for humanitarian causes, everywhere.

Guests pay the tab to be amid royalty—in this case, P50,000, P20,000 or P10,000 per plate, depending on one's proximity to the royal table.

Now, to be seated with Princess Caroline, it cost P1 million.

The Makati Shangri-La ballroom wasn't packed. There was generous space between tables, with the "poor" P10,000 per plate tables set up on the platforms near the ballroom walls, with the higher-priced tables spread out

closer to the center where the Princess' table was.

Among those at the Princess' table Monday night were Paeng and Mely Hechanova, Nedy Tantoco, Rico Tantoco, Amade Mondiale head in Manila lawyer Eric Mallonga, longtime Amade benefactor Dr. Stephen Zuellig and BMW president Dr. Jorg Breuer.

So Chanel

The ballroom's décor wasn't opulent, either. Robert Biancalor just decked the tables with elegant white roses. So Chanel, the princess' favored designer.

The royal herself was no pomp and pageantry. One look at her and it became obvious to the guests how simple she was.

A muse of Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel, she was in austere black, her hair a traditional bob. She is an icon following in the footsteps of her mom, the late Princess Grace, who herself was behind Amade Mondiale and who, as the Hollywood goddess Grace Kelly, was one of the icons of the 20th century.

Woman of style

Princess Caroline has grown quite a

distance from just being one of the world's women of style. From being on the world's best dressed list, she plunged into humanitarian work for children worldwide.

On this trip, the Princess apparently traveled light. She was alone on the flight, her two bodyguards flying in ahead of her to meet her at the airport. She had only one piece of luggage—"but the real one, not fake," said a wag.

Yoga

At her private dinner with the Virian Foundation and the event committee organizers, held on her first night here, she came in a Chanel suit in black and white, a cross pendant being her only accessory.

At some moments she shared a smoke with some event committee insiders. Asked if her hectic schedule wore her down, she said she did yoga and that seemed enough.

Committed Filipinos

Lemay first came to Manila in 1988 and made his commitment to help the street children. In the early '90s, the Kuok matriarch, Puan Sri Eileen Kuok,

introduced Marietta Santos to Lemay and asked Marietta to help Lemay start the foundation for Filipino children. Marietta has been with the foundation since then and was one of the movers of this event, for which she tapped the support of Meldy Cojuangco, banker Raul Manzano and Mary Prieto.

Strong speech

Inno Sotto showed his collection, the same one from the Ayala Museum. A counterpoint to the fashion show was the speech of Princess Caroline to cap the night. It was strong and didn't mince words as she stressed the importance of children in our future—the children, she said, are the essence of a country's and the world's future.

But more than that, she stressed the importance of protecting children's rights and punishing violations against them. She was emphatic about applying the full force of the law for the protection of children.

After her speech, hardly had the royal returned to her seat than the Pinoy gave vent to his passion—"kodakan." Truly Pinoy.

Military enraged by Miriam charges

From page A1

"unexplained wealth."

J-1 is for Personnel; J-2, Intelligence; J-3, Operations; J-4, Logistics; J-5, Plans; J-6, Comptroller; J-7, Civil Military Operations; J-8, Training; J-9, AFP Modernization; K-10, Reservists, and J-11, Communications.

Tone down attacks

In a statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo asked political leaders to tone down their attacks on the military.

"We are determined to bring grafters to justice in the Armed Forces but I would like to appeal, in fairness to the Filipino soldier and the command, for a good measure of rhetorical restraint among our political leaders," Ms Arroyo, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, said.

The President said she had ordered court-martial proceedings against Garcia to start at once and vowed to "leave no stone unturned in the full investigation and trial" of corrupt military officers. "But let us not drench the uniform in dishonor for the wayward acts of a few."

Charged with 'idiocy'

Adan's statements did not sit well with Santiago.

The senator said the AFP spokesperson was accusing her of treason. "I am accusing him of idiocy."

"(T)he term enemies of a state has a historical connotation of oppression and tyranny, that those who hold the military might are intimidating the population when they invent the fiction of the so-called enemy of the state," Santiago said.

She told Adan that he should not expect to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, which will have an organizational meeting today. "He can therefore forget all about becoming

Biazon won't inhibit in Senate probe

ALTHOUGH he had thought of inhibiting himself from the Senate inquiry, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he would proceed to chair one of two Senate committees tasked with investigating Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's claim of systematic corruption in the military.

Biazon said this was because Santiago had somehow cleared him of involvement in her accusation that the AFP was run by a "Gang of 12."

Santiago's speech was referred to the Senate committees on finance and on national defense.

Biazon, who chairs the national defense committee, said he had thought of inhibiting himself from the hearing because he had served as AFP chief of staff in the Aquino administration.

But he sought the advice of Santiago about this during the interpellation

a lieutenant general."

Lowest in AFP food chain

Santiago called Adan an "anonymous little insect" and the "lowest official in the food chain in the AFP" for saying that her exposé on Monday was "way off line."

She said Adan had no right to stay "a minute longer" because he was defending "the vested, corrupt interest in the military."

Adan also said that "the good senator might have forgotten that she had a brother who became chief of staff. I don't know what she meant when she said it is only her brother who is clean."

Santiago said it was below the belt. Under the rules of debate and argumen-

tion, "you should stick to the issue and never discuss personalities," she said.

Adan added that Santiago's accusations were "not substantiated."

'Cowardly' tipsters

He said Santiago's "tipsters," who he said might also be officers, should "come out in the open instead of cowardly going to just any politician. The solutions should come from the inside with the help of other institutions."

Adan said the AFP was already crafting plans to correct the problems that had been identified by the Davide Commission and the Feliciano Commission. The commissions, which were formed after the coup attempts by the Reform the Armed

Forces Movement during the Aquino administration and the coup staged by the Magdalo coup last year, respectively, had identified the problems facing the AFP.

Adan said the problems of the AFP could not be solved overnight and likened the AFP to a large ship trying to come to a full stop. "Before it could stop it must first glide slowly. You cannot have an abrupt stop."

Forces Movement during the Aquino administration and the coup staged by the Magdalo coup last year, respectively, had identified the problems facing the AFP.

Adan said the problems of the AFP could not be solved overnight and likened the AFP to a large ship trying to come to a full stop. "Before it could stop it must first glide slowly. You cannot have an abrupt stop."

No rush to the defense

Earlier in the day, Malacanang made clear it won't rush to the defense of the top 12 military officials whom Santiago accused of corruption.

In an RNM interview yesterday morning, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said it was up to the military officials to explain their positions on Santiago's exposé.

"We cannot defend them because the President's position on graft in government is very clear," Bunye said. He said the President did not condone corruption in any branch of the government.

Independent commission

In the Senate, Santiago's proposal to create an independent commission to "investigate and reform" the Armed Forces is gaining support.

Taking a cue from the privilege speech of Santiago, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan yesterday filed Senate Bill No. 1823 to give flesh to the proposal and establish "rules of procedure" for the fact-finding commission.

Under the bill, the commission will have the power to examine any bank deposit, trust or investment fund, and banking transaction. It will be composed of a retired Supreme Court justice, two senators, two congressmen, a retired AFP official and a private sector representative.

With reports from Juliet Labog-Javelana and Christine O. Avendaño

Garcia withdrew P38M two days after story broke

From page A1

no court order yet," he told reporters.

Osmena was referring to the absence of a freeze order at that time on the bank accounts of Garcia.

The eight bank accounts in the UCPB were in the name of Garcia, his wife Clarita and their children Ian Carl, 26; Juan Paolo, 23, and Timothy Mark, 21.

Six of the bank accounts were peso deposits amounting to P21.6 million, while two others were dollar deposits with a peso equivalent of P17 million.

Garcia's bank account had P4.6 million; his sons Timothy, Ian Clark and Juan Paolo had P4.28 million each, and his wife had P1 million.

The two dollar accounts were in the name of Garcia and his wife with balances of \$101,169 and \$202,338, respectively.

'Suspicious' accounts

Osmena said the UCPB branch reported via e-mail to the UCPB anti-money laundering unit the existence of Garcia's bank accounts on Oct. 6, a day after news reports came out on the corruption charges against the former AFP comptroller.

But it was only on Oct. 12 that UCPB reported to the Amla in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas about the bank accounts, he said.

US assets frozen

The Office of the Ombudsman has asked the US Department of Justice to freeze all the assets of Garcia and his family in the United States, including deposits in banks and various real estate properties.

"We have asked the US government through the US Embassy to freeze the as-

sets of the Garcias in the US," Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo told the INQUIRER during a break in the Inter-Agency Anti-Graft Coordinating Council conference sponsored by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The Ombudsman's letter was addressed to Jeffrey Cole, the US justice attache at the US Embassy in Manila.

"We are asking the US DOJ to freeze the assets of the Garcias, subject to the existing rules and regulations of the US," said the Ombudsman official who sent the letter to Cole.

According to the official, who asked not to be named, the US justice and customs offices were already investigating the assets of Garcia in the United States.

A report by the Office of the Ombudsman said the Garcias brought some P44 million into the US between 1993 and 2004.

The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) had identified three pieces of real estate owned by Garcia in the United States—a \$765,000 Trump Park Avenue Condominium at 502 Park Avenue, New York City; a \$750,000 apartment at 222 East 34th Street, also in New York City, and a house at 625 Vancouver Drive, Westerville, Ohio, of undetermined value.

According to the official, who asked not to be named, the US justice and customs offices were already investigating the assets of Garcia in the United States.

The official said the Garcias brought some P44 million into the US between 1993 and 2004.

The Court of Appeals froze 40 bank accounts and investment placements of the Garcias on Oct. 14.

These included seven accounts in

Land Bank of the Philippines, 12 accounts in Allied Banking Corp., one account at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, two accounts in Bank of the Philippine Islands, eight accounts in United Comcon Planters Bank, six accounts at Planters Development Bank and four in the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc.

But many of the accounts were reportedly closed on "one day" between Oct. 7 and Oct. 14.

Amend Amla

Osmena said he would push for the amendment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act to ensure that the AMLC would move faster in freezing suspicious bank accounts.

He also said that UCPB should have reported Garcia's bank accounts earlier since they contained money deemed "suspicious" given the huge amounts.

"And obviously when you have in one branch alone the equivalent of P38 million ... that is cause for suspicion and they never reported this," Osmena said, as he admitted that the bank could be held liable for it.

Osmena said because of the Garcia case, he doubted whether the Financial Action Task Force would remove the Philippines from its watchlist of countries not cooperating in the global fight against money laundering.

30-man special audit team

Marcelo said he would start next week the formation of an inter-agency team that would conduct a "special audit" of "all military contracts" inked by the Armed Forces of the Philippines with contractors and suppliers during Garcia's tenure as AFP comptroller from 2001 to 2004.

The special audit team will be made up of 25 to 30 personnel from the Ombudsman, the Commission on Audit, the Department of Justice and the Civil Service Commission.

Marcelo said he hoped to complete the formation of the audit team next month.

He said the special audit would not only look into the military contracts during Garcia's time, but also those contracts forged earlier by other officials in the military, private contractors and suppliers.

"We will see the transactions and if we see any irregularities, we will see who was involved," he said.

Extradition

In a separate interview, Marcelo said that members of the Garcia family in the United States also faced possible extradition to the Philippines should their investigation show there is clear evidence of their culpability.

"Their criminal acts were done here," he said of the strong likelihood of the Garcias being extradited.

Marcelo said he also sent subpoenas to the members of the Garcia family in the US to explain their alleged ill-gotten wealth. But the Garcias replied by asking for the dismissal of the complaint filed against them, Marcelo said.

Plunder

According to him, his office was about to wrap up its preliminary investigation of the perjury and unexplained wealth charges against the Garcias in the Sandiganbayan.

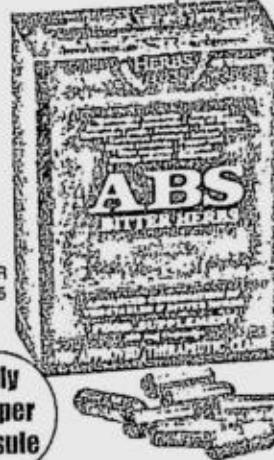
As to a possible case of plunder against the Garcias, he said the matter was still the subject of a fact-finding investigation by the Ombudsman.

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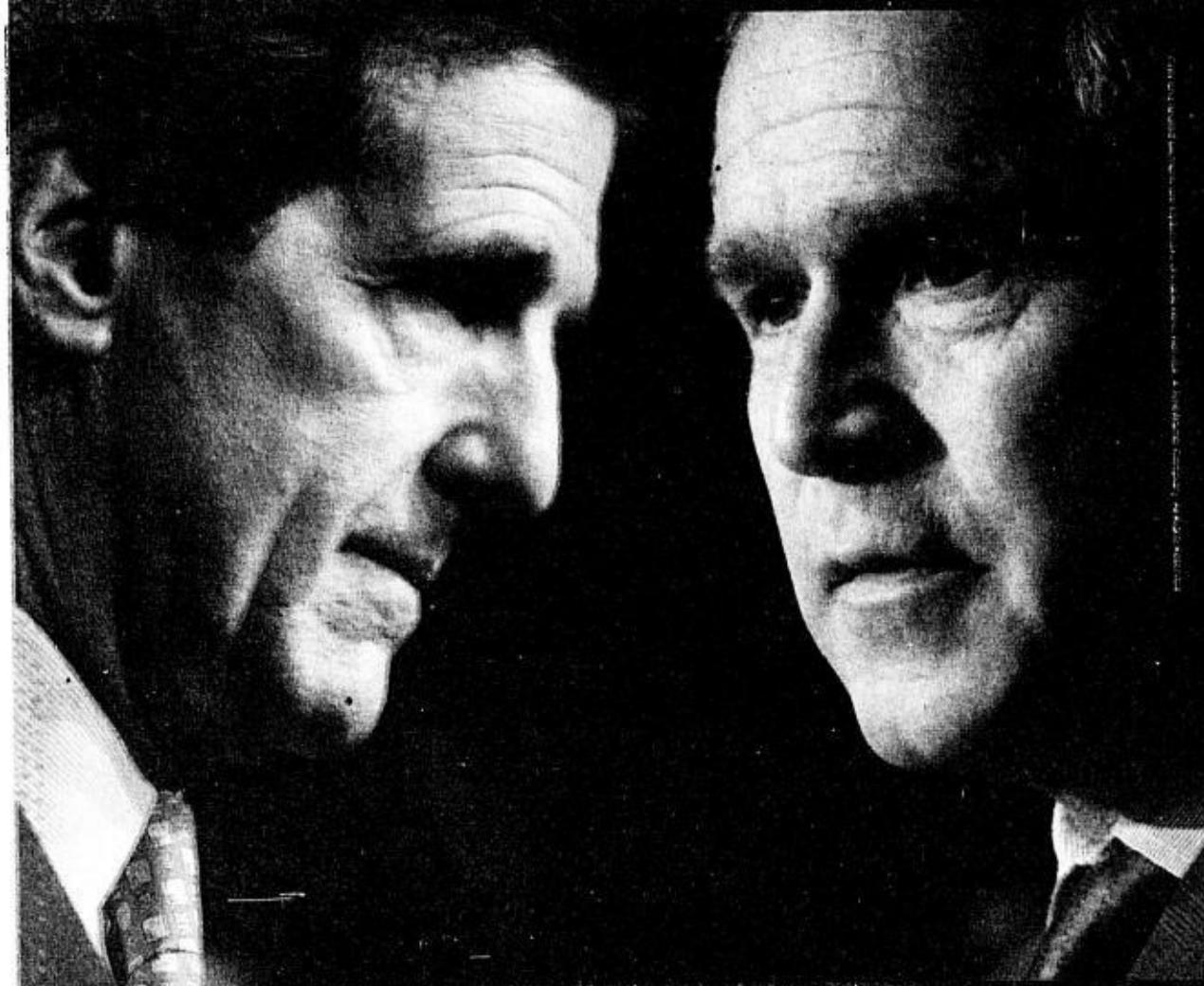
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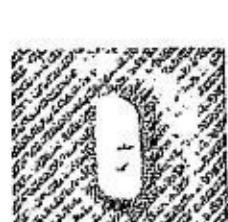
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DON'T stand on the sidelines. You, too, can help fight corruption by turning into a whistle-blower.

Noting the nation's "shock" at reports on the unexplained wealth of a senior Armed Forces officer, Chief Justice Hilario Davide urged citizens yesterday to share whatever information they had about grafters, saying their indifference made them as guilty as the corrupt officials they condemned.

"In waging this war [on corruption], every bit of knowledge and information concerning the enemy would be valuable to give us an advantage over it and crash it in shameful and lasting defeat," he said.

Still in touch

Davide mentioned no one by name but he left little doubt as to who he was referring to when he said that the "nation is still in shock over reports of graft and corruption committed by a high ranking official of the Philippine military."

Davide's speech at a conference held by the United Nations Development Program coincided with a congressional inquiry into the alleged unexplained wealth of former Armed

Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia. One lawmaker had estimated Garcia's assets at about P200 million.

"Doing nothing when we could have done something good and right is no different from committing the evil act itself," said the chief magistrate.

Sin of omission

"The sin of omission is as grave as the sin of commission," he said.

Davide spoke at the UNDP forum dubbed "Tapat Palakad," a series of multi-sectoral forums and workshops on government reforms.

Yesterday's conference held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel focused on the anticorruption campaign, with an audience that included government auditors, civil service officials and graft investigators.

Davide conceded that the Philippines was now stuck with the "perception" that it was a graft-ridden country, especially in the wake of an international survey which ranked it as the 11th most corrupt among 146 states.

The ranking has already created such a negative image for the country "whether it is founded on reliable empirical data or not," he said.

Miriam fires guns . . .

From page A1

to declare [their] status as corrupt generals' wives," Santiago said.

Responding to Santiago's scorching speech on Monday, Gen. Narciso Abaya yesterday said that contrary to the picture painted by the senator that the military had become a milking cow for the top brass, he had actually imposed "austerity" measures during his two-year term as AFP chief of staff.

For one thing, it was not true that the AFP holds ballroom dancing parties, Abaya said at a conference on the anticorruption campaign of the United Nations Development Program, where he was one of the invited speakers.

"Never in my time did we have ballroom dancing or hired DIs (dance instructors) because I was so afraid of my wife," he said, managing to make light of the matter and drawing laughs from an audience that included state auditors and graft investigators.

Abaya also said he had actually "cut down on certain events and socials," scrapping even the "extravagant" annual AFP Olympics in order to reduce expenses.

Trial by publicity

According to Abaya, who is set to retire in two days, the military has fallen victim to "trial by publicity and political grandstanding."

He said he had been "personally devastated" by the controversy stemming from the unexplained wealth of the former AFP comptroller, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, more so because it erupted as he was about to retire.

He also said the issue had been "covered more than enough" in the media and had been "muddled by speculation and innuendos."

If Garcia's case is "left hanging and unresolved, it is our officers, men and women, who will continue to be victims of disrespect by those whose perceptions are shaped by trial by publicity and political grandstanding," Abaya said.

In her privilege speech, Santiago said the AFP was being run by the "Gang of 12" composed of the chief of staff and his 11 staff generals (J-1 to J-11).

She said some of these generals who had turned politician "ceaselessly try until now to cover themselves with synthetic glory, by using their ill-gotten wealth to continue to publicize themselves."

She also said the alleged gang was leading the "Mafia" or the "mob" in the AFP that had institutionalized corruption since the martial law days through the unlawful practices of "clearance" and "conversion."

This corruption, she said, had resulted in yearly losses to the AFP of about P2 billion.

Euphemisms

Santiago had defined "clearance" and "conversion" as euphemisms for the crimes of, respectively, falsification of public documents and malversation of public funds (or plunder if the amount pocketed is at least P50 million).

SC rules court-martial . . .

From page A1

over them and they asked the high court to order their immediate release.

The tribunal, however, agreed with the Office of the Solicitor General that Pimentel had erred in his ruling.

It said that the soldiers' Sept. 23, 2003, omnibus motion asking Pimentel to assume jurisdiction over the charges lodged against them in the military court had been made "moot and academic" by the Nov. 14 decision of Judge Romeo Barza to dismiss the charges against the 290 mutineers for lack of evidence.

"It had become moot with respect to those whose charges against them were dismissed, including (the petitioners), because they were no longer parties to the case," the high court said.

No solace for mutineers

"Indeed, as they were no longer parties to the case, no further relief could be granted to them," it added.

Barza initially tried the case against the soldiers before it was consolidated with the case against former Executive Secretary Ramon Cardenas in Pimentel's sala.

"Thus, (the petitioners), who are no longer charged with coup d'état, cannot find solace in the declaration (of Pimentel) that the charges filed before the general court-martial against them

were not service-connected," the high court said.

Superfluity

"The same is a superfluity and cannot be given effect for having been made by (Pimentel) without or in excess of (his) jurisdiction."

The high court also pointed out that Pimentel's order violated Republic Act No. 7055, which "explicitly specifies" that the charges against the soldiers were considered "service-connected crimes or offenses."

It added that the law "vests on military courts" the jurisdiction over these offenses.

The soldiers were earlier charged with mutiny (Articles of War 67); conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (AW 97); conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (AW 96); disrespect to the President, the Secretary of Defense, etc (AW 63), and disrespect toward superior officer (AW 64).

Mandate

"It is clear ... that RA 7055 did not divest the military courts of jurisdiction to try cases involving violations of Articles 54 to 70, Articles 72 to 92 and Articles 95 to 97 of the Articles of War as these are considered 'service-connected crimes or offenses,'" the court said.

"In fact, it mandates that these shall be tried by the court-martial," it added.

Security, traffic schemes in place for Nov. 1

EXTRA security measures and alternate routes are in place in anticipation of the crush of people on their way to cemeteries in the metropolis to visit their departed relatives on Nov. 1 or All Saints' Day, a regular holiday.

Malacañang, however, said Nov. 2, All Souls' Day, is a working day, upon the recommendation of the Department of Labor and Employment. Wage earners would be deprived of a day's wage if Nov. 2 were declared a holiday, according to the Palace.

The public and private sectors, on the other hand, can look forward to a long weekend on Nov. 30, Bonifacio Day. Instead of observing the holiday on a Tuesday, the holiday would be observed on Monday.

Police authorities have also included bus and ship terminals in their watch.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Avelino Razon Jr. said personnel manning the five satellite police stations currently detailed in strategic areas of the metropolis would be sent to big cemeteries on Nov. 1.

The mobile stations are manned by at least 16 policemen. Apart from a commander, each bus has an investigator and a women's desk officer. The stations are in Monumento (Caloocan City), Baclaran (Parañaque City), SM Megamall (Mandaluyong City), Cubao (Quezon City) and Recto (Manila).

The buses also have makeshift detention cells for arrested suspects.

Medical teams would also be on board the police buses, and policemen would be assigned to secure bus terminals, airports and seaports. The transportation and communication department has also coordinated with the police in setting up assistance centers on major roads.

Glitch stops MRT

A COMPUTER glitch triggered a malfunction of ticket dispensers in all 13 stations of the Metro Rail Transit and forced a suspension of rail service at 9:45 a.m. Train operations resumed at 10:20 a.m.

Clarissa S. Batino

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BJMP director denies pocketing food funds

By Nelson F. Flores

THE BUREAU of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) yesterday denied allegations that its officials had been pocketing the food allowance of inmates.

In a statement, BJMP director Arturo Alit said the P505.5 million budget for inmates' meals this year was only for 39,570 detainees. As of September, he

pointed out, the jail population had already reached 57,238.

Alit said that when he assumed office last year, he gave wardens the authority to plan and manage the subsistence allowances of inmates.

He also ordered the formation of teams to monitor the quality of food served and to check cash advances.

Alit said he and other top-ranking jail officials welcomed any inquiry on

the reported anomalies and corruption in BJMP jails and the inhumane condition in the country's detention facilities.

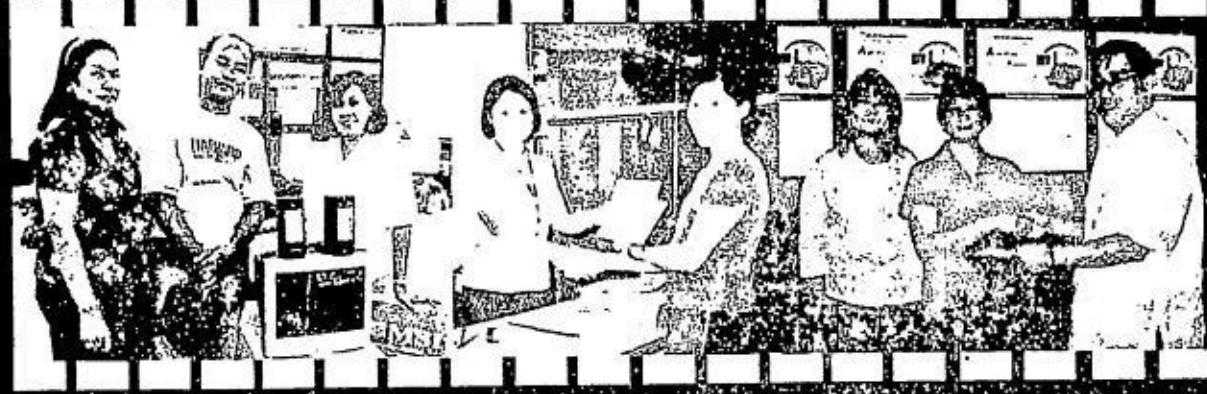
On Sunday, Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, called for an investigation on reports that the BJMP and other jail officials were shaving off and pocketing part of the food allowance of inmates.

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Fire guts Rustan's Taguig warehouse

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By Nancy C. Carvajal, Tina G. Santos
and Ruth L. Navarra

IMPORTED merchandise worth P15 million went up in flames when fire gutted a warehouse of Rustan's Department Store at the FTI Complex in Taguig.

The three-hour blaze was only one of three fires that hit Metro Manila late Monday and early yesterday.

A Rustan's company official said the fire de-

stroyed shipments of perfumes, lotions and other bottled products.

"It was one of the three warehouses of Rustan's," the official added.

No one was hurt, but municipal fire chief Senior Insp. Virgilio B. de la Paz estimated the damage at P15 million.

De la Paz said fire broke out at 10:45 p.m. at the ceiling of the second floor of the two-level building.

"May sumiklab (There was a flash)," the Rustan's official said.

Rustan's had been occupying the warehouse for 24 years.

The entire second floor, which was made of wood, was destroyed and 75 percent of the ground floor was also razed, De la Paz said.

He said burnt samples from the warehouse would be taken to the Philippine National Police crime laboratory to determine the cause of the blaze.

Arson not ruled out

"We are not ruling out anything yet, including sabotage and arson," he said.

The fire was placed under control at 1:55 a.m.

De la Paz said their station was only 100 meters from the warehouse, but their only fire truck was busy putting out a brush fire which broke out inside the Global City in Fort Bonifacio.

At 3 a.m., a suspected gas tank explosion triggered a blaze that razed more than 50 houses in a densely populated community in front of the Sandiganbayan building in Quezon City.

A five-year-old boy was hurt while at least 100 families were rendered homeless by the three-hour fire.

Raymond Cabillan, of St. Vincent Street, Barangay Holy Spirit, experienced difficulty breathing, arson investigators said.

Investigation showed that the fire started at the house of a certain Gavino Hermosora on St. Vincent Street.

A loud explosion

Prior to the blaze, residents heard a loud explosion, which they suspect was from an exploding gas tank.

Authorities, however, said they were still investigating the cause of the fire that destroyed an estimated P1 million in property.

In Barangay Rosario, Pasig City, a three-year-old child accidentally set fire to some clothes while playing with a lighter at about 8:40 a.m., said Insp. Norberto Salvador.

The fire quickly spread and razed 35 houses.

The fire was put out at 10:10 a.m.

Two firemen, Insp. Rodel Nota and F01 Leonardo Prado, suffered slight injuries. Both were from the Pasig City Fire Department.

Damage was estimated at P5 million.



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BILLIARDS: PHL 9-Ball Open; 2 p.m.; Solar Sports—it's Day Three of this prestigious billiards event.



WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 27, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Banal fears Pals' streak could end against Kings

By June Navarro

IT'S ONLY a matter of time before other teams catch up with the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

And coach Joel Banal fears the streak could end anytime, even tonight against the Barangay Ginebra Kings.

The Phone Pals will again play minus franchise player Asi Taulava when they stake their clean 5-0 record against the

Gin Kings in the Grand Matador PBA Philippine Cup at 4:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

FedEx and Coca-Cola clash at 7:20 p.m., with the Express looking for a third victory in five games.

Despite missing Taulava, whom the league suspended over his disputed Filipino citizenship, the Phone Pals still handily beat Purefoods and Coca-Cola in their last outings.

On both occasions, the TJ Hotdogs

and the Tigers prepared plays against the 6-foot-9 Taulava only to alter their game plan at the 11th hour.

"We probably caught them off-guard because they prepared for Asi. But sooner or later, the other teams will be able to adjust and give us a rough time," said Banal.

When Taulava was around, the Phone Pals relentlessly pounded the middle while Willie Miller, Jimmy Alapag, Vic Pablo and Donbel Belano hit their shots

consistently from the outside.

With the Phone Pals now vulnerable in the paint, Romel Adducul, Andy Seigle and Eric Menk are expected to assert themselves inside for the Gin Kings (2-3), who lost their last outing to the Shell Turbochargers.

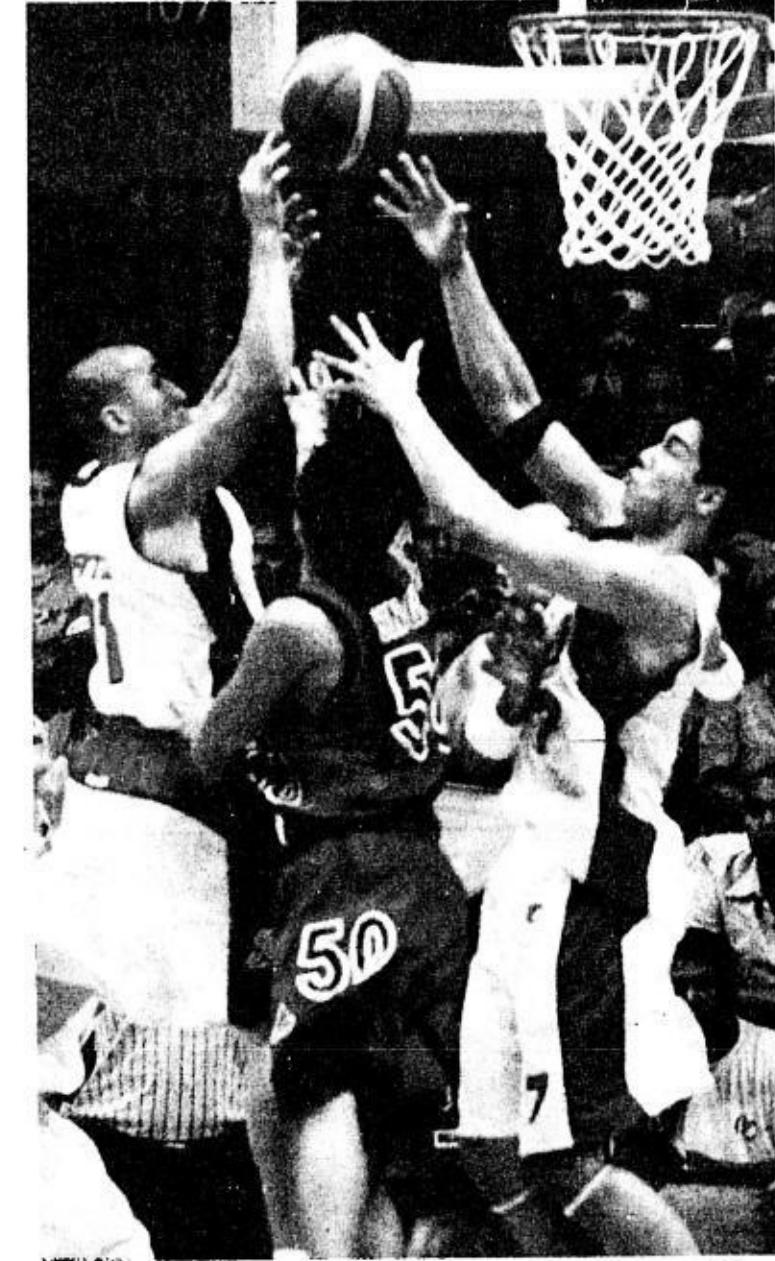
Meanwhile, the PBA Board of Governors is set to hold an emergency meeting today to tackle the cases of Taulava and the five foreign-born players who were ordered deported by the Department of

Justice.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala is expected to submit a plan of action to the board on the deportation-bound players who filed a court case against the league.

Eala said a court injunction would force them to allow Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Mick Pennisi, Jon Ordonio, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Ginebra's Alex Crisano and Taulava to play, even though "they are still ineligible based on league rules."

BI deport order out; crime raps readied vs 'Fil-shams'



DALE Singson of San Miguel Beer puts up a shot off Mike Cortez (left) and Sonny Thoss of Alaska puts up a shot off Dale during their game Saturday night at Araneta Coliseum. The Beermen won, 75-67.

JESS YUSON

Investigate people who OK'd foreign cagers—Bernardino

By Musong R. Castillo

FORMER PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino claims some unscrupulous people in the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration have a part in the "Fil-sham" controversy now hounding the league.

Bernardino, in whose watch a deluge of foreign-born players came to play in Asia's first play-for-pay basketball league, broke his silence yesterday to say the foreign-born players and their teams are not the only parties to blame for the scandal.

"I'm surprised at statements I've read (in the papers) that people from these agencies will now look into (league) officials and (team) management," Bernardino told the INQUIRER.

"These players were supposed to have secured their (citizenship) recognition themselves, and they (certain people at the

Justice department and the BI) were the ones who approved the players' papers," Bernardino pointed out.

"The people who approved the documents should also be [investigated]. Paano ba lumusot yung mga papeles na yan (How did the papers pass scrutiny) in the first place?"

Bernardino, who served as PBA commissioner for nine years, questions the wisdom of deporting the foreign-born players after they managed to secure their citizenship papers directly from government agencies.

"These agencies, we felt at that time, were the rightful agencies to decide on the matter (of citizenship of the foreign-born players)," he said. "It was a rule that the PBA had passed, in accordance with every man's constitutional rights. We had no other recourse but to accept them."



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PBL newcomers in telling debuts

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LEAGUE newcomers are no easy preys.

Jerome Paterno knocked in the game-winning basket with 22.6 seconds left as Air Philippines soared to an 81-80 upset of Addict Mobile-Ateneo in its maiden voyage yesterday in the PBL Open Championship at the Pasig Sports Center.

Paterno finished with 18 points to lead the Flight, who trailed by 11 early in the fourth quarter.

"I cannot ask for more," said Flight coach Lawrence Chongson. "Unlike other teams that are school-based, ours is a selection. We only had less than two weeks of practice so it was all heart."

Granny Goose Tortillos made it a day of the newcomers by creaming ICTSI-La Salle, 75-66, in a physical second game.

Toti Almeda topscored with 16 points, while Ronald Capati and Ardy Larong added 11 apiece for the Tortillos.

"We only had three days of practice together but the team had intensity. *Yung lang ang panglaban namin ngayon* (That's our only weapon right now)," said Granny Goose coach Jun Tan.

The Cebu-based Granny Goose squad took a 47-39 edge off a 16-7 tear in the third quarter before pulling away, 66-50, in the final period.

ICTSI-La Salle's Mac Cardona was thrown out in the fourth quarter for elbowing Tortillos' Marvin Cruz. Teammate Jerwin Gaco was also slapped an unsportsmanlike foul for hitting Almeda.

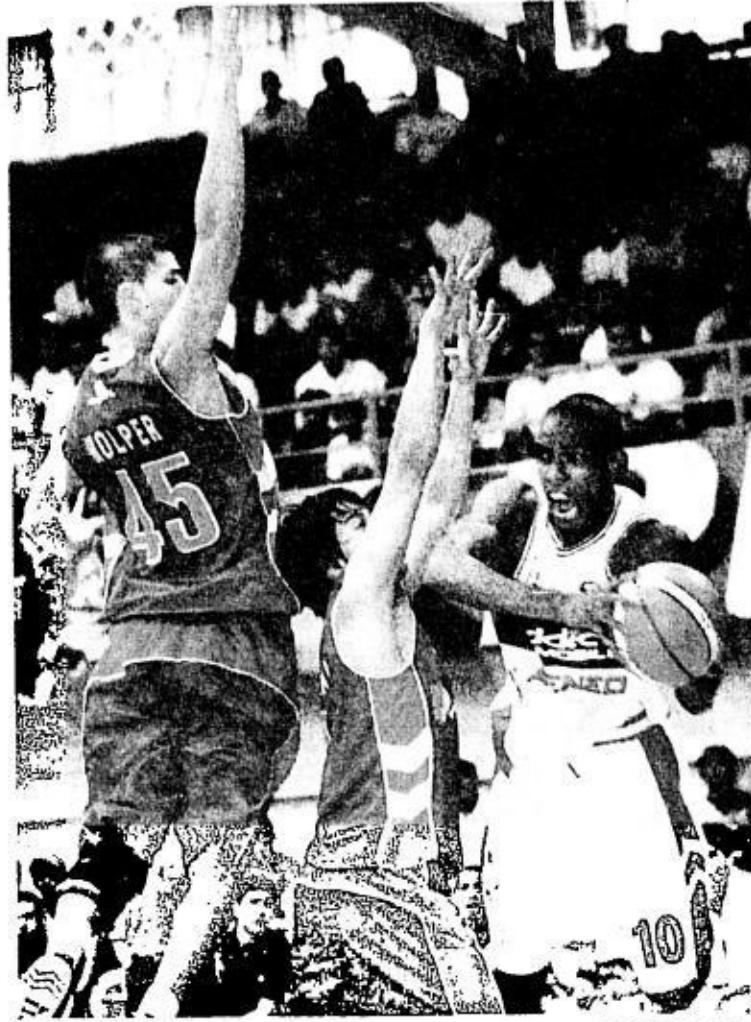
PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad is to decide today whether Cardona and Gaco will be suspended in ICTSI-La Salle's game against Addict Mobile-Ateneo on Saturday.

Air Philippines trailed, 72-61, until the trio of Paterno, Fil-Am Mike Holper and Yousif Aljamal combined in a 15-5 run to wrest the lead, 77-76, in the final four minutes.

LA Paterno gave the lead back to Ateneo, 80-79, with 55.3 seconds to go before Paterno came away with his winning layup.

Ateneo still had a chance to steal the ballgame after a Flight turnover, but Jason Castro and JC Intal missed their baskets in the dying seconds.

The scores:
First Game
AIR PHILIPPINES 81—Paterno 18, Holper 14, Aljamal 12,



Hubalte 10, Epondulan 7, Vizcaya 7, Alonzo 6, Te 5, Pua 2, Tolentino 0.

ADDICT MOBILE-ATENEO 80—Mesina 16, Castro 13,

Tenorio 11, Mendoza 9, Bugla 8, Sanz 8, Alfad 5, Intal 4, Espinas 4, Membrere 2.

Quarters: 23-21, 41-45, 57-60, 81-80

Second Game

GRANNY GOOSE 75—Almeda 16, Capati 11, Larong 11,

Lanete 9, Quilahan 8, Grijaldo 7, Santos 3, Ibañez 3, Cervantes

3, Latonio 2, Cruz 2.

ICTSI-LA SALLE 66—Yeo 19, Cardona 15, Cabatu 6, Tang

6, Casio 6, Gaco 3, Araña 5, Benitez 4, Gaco 3, Gavino 2,

Aquino 0, Gatchalian 0, Walsham 0.

Quarters: 19-18, 31-32, 58-47, 75-66

GABBY Espinas
(above) of Addict
Mobile-Ateneo
aborts his drive and
looks for the open
man off two Air
Philippines
defenders in last
night's game.
Espinosa, NCAA's
MVP and Rookie of
the Year, managed
only four markers.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Boom Boom and treasure finds in Tagbilaran

TAGBILARAN CITY—The sensational knockout, scored right in the first round, appeared unreal. It could've come out of a movie script.

The hometown boy, now based in Cebu, returned home to fight before his townsmates for the first time.

Rey Bautista, a bronze-faced, well-carved farmer's son, reigns as the WBO Pan-Asia bantamweight champion. He had won all his 11 previous professional fights, seven by knockout.

There had been other boxing stars from Bohol like Bobby Berna, but the 18-year-old Bautista, nicknamed Boom Boom for his fire and flare inside the ring, was embraced here like he was already a celebrity as big as Manny Pacquiao.

Well, the knockout, scored Sunday evening before a sweltering, full-house crowd, could have come later, maybe in the middle rounds, and it would've been perfectly fine.

But Bautista, in black robes, his head wrapped in a glossy black bandana, kept chanting, jabbing the air to lead the crowd into a frenzy.

He must've worked himself into a happy rage that, once he caught his Indon foe in a corner late in the first round, he bent a bit then dug three successive left blows to the ribs.

Boom, boom, boom! The Indon, who had won seven of his last eight fights, sank and fell as though it was the only time he had entered a boxing ring.

He was counted out on his back, and a stretcher had to be brought in.

There were fears he had suffered a broken bone.

No, Bautista's flimsy WBO title, being likened to an Orient-Pacific diadem, was not at stake.

But the crowd savored the win as though Bautista had captured a full-sized world crown.

The impact of victory was total as Bautista rode the ropes and, much mightier now, pumped the air and goaded the triumphant, sweaty crowd into a delirium.

The screaming first-round knockout marked Bautista's 12th successive win against no losses.

And, although all that they had heard before Sunday was his raging, sensational stoppages of previous foes, Boom Boom's townsmates were one in swearing that he's the next big thing in RP boxing.

BARE EYE



Recab Trinidad

Your reporter here could only nod in half-agreement.

Boholanos, blessed with generous mountain, farms and sea, could be feeling like they have a treasure somewhere around here in the gifted Bautista.

In fact, Bautista's chief patron and handler, Tony Aldeguer of the tested and famous ALA Gym in Cebu, should be hailed for again digging deep and surfacing with another world-class find.

Indeed, Bautista, with a big heart, the rare boom-boom behind his punches, could also be a national treasure.

The good thing here is that Aldeguer, who has put Bautista under a boxing scholarship in a team-up with Tagbilaran Mayor Dan Lim Neri, has acknowledged that the young boxer must breathe deeper down to his navel area, seat of the so-called *chi*, in launching his killer blows.

Bautista, using the shoulder pad as spring-board of his punches, has greatly diminished his total worth.

He did try the new technique, adopted by the likes of Muhammad Ali, and the teenage wonder, now breathing more freely, was amazed at how he was also able to move a lot better with his feet.

Knowing Tony Aldeguer, who's gifted with a sharp technical eye, Bautista should find no trouble shifting to the tried-and-tested style.

Anyway, Randy Suico's successful third defense of his OPBF super featherweight title in Cebu City on Saturday has indeed lent a piece of joy to his poor townsmates.

In Bautista's case however, he fought so mightily that, although he could still be a couple of years to a world crown, he had visibly succeeded in making those around him feel truly triumphant.

Of course, nobody could feel more rewarded than first-time visitors to Tagbilaran.

A short, quiet boat ride from the shriek of cruel commerce in Cebu, the sweet serenity of this orderly city of sea, sunshine and sincere smiles is indeed a treasure of a find.

ANG MUSIKA NI DONDON

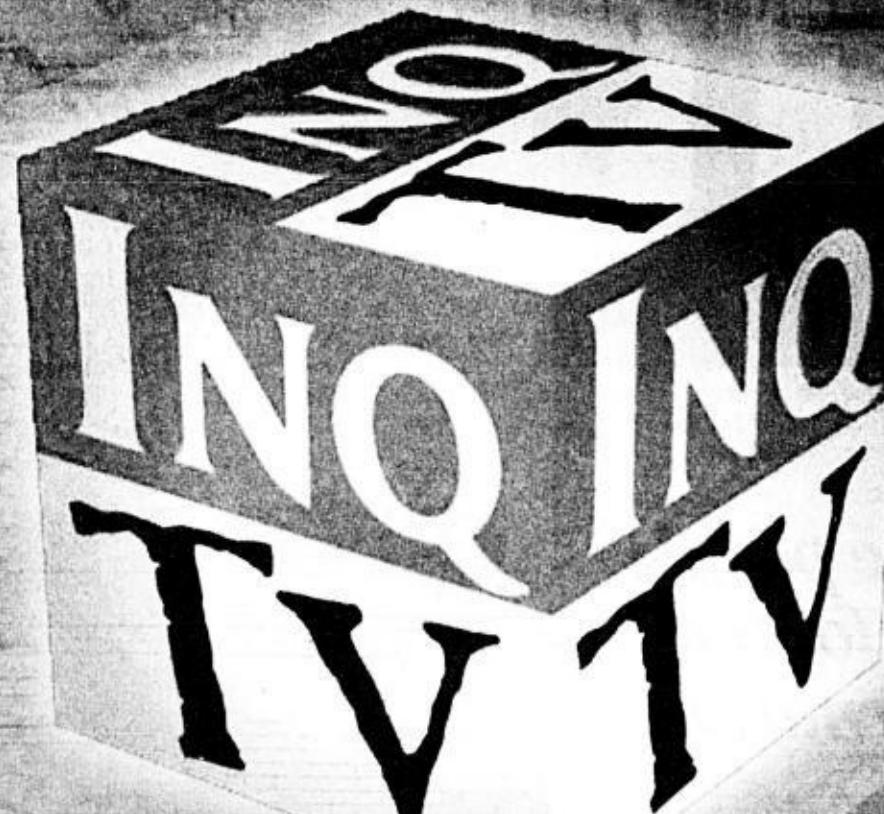
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HOPE

Globe

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Cheri Mercado

Dito lang sa



Jao, Carapiet clinch titles at BRC

ROSARIO, Batangas—Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Kawasaki and Ivan Carapiet of Edgesport captured the overall crown in their respective classes Sunday in the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Jao, though finishing only second in the last two races, clinched the Shell Advance Superbikes Series for an unprecedented eighth time.

Carapiet swept the two races to claim the Formula Toyota Cup, his second major plum after ruling the KT Light class in last year's Shell Superkarting Series.

The day actually belonged to Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex, who upset Jao twice in three thrilling Superbike races.

Jao accumulated 255 points to emerge overall champion in the series. Mendoza wound up second with 218 points, fol-

lowed by Toti Alberto with 162.

Toting a precarious 16-point lead at the start of the races, Carapiet won twice over Michelle Bumgarner.

Carapiet totaled 174 points, with Bumgarner settling for 141. Gabby de la Merced finished third overall with 131.

Clinching the other titles were Aries Padrieros (Novice category) and Jade Lazaro (Sub 400cc).

Pastor breaks Batangas lap mark

ROSARIO, Batangas—Team T.E.C. Speedwelle driver Enzo Pastor of Petron Bench Boysen McGills broke the lap record for Group N1 touring cars at the Batangas Racing Circuit Sunday, clocking 1 minute 48.6 seconds in a Honda EKN1 he borrowed from team manager Ferdie Ong.

Pastor eclipsed the previous record of 1:48.90, set by Kookie Ramirez, while engag-

ing Jody Coseteng in a tight battle in Race 9 of the Philippine National Touring Car Series.

The performance gave Pastor great satisfaction following what he claimed were erroneous published reports blaming him for Coseteng's recent string of losses.

Pastor said the absence of any protest or incident report from Coseteng's team is proof that the allegations were baseless.

RP suffers 3rd straight defeat

Paragua, Senador yield to Estonians

The leaders after 10 rounds:

Open (129 teams): 29.0—Ukraine; 27.0—Russia; 26.5—Armenia; 26.0—United States; 25.0—Azerbaijan, Cuba; 24.5—Switzerland; 24.0—India, Bulgaria, Slovakia, France, China, Czech Republic, Moldova, Poland, Serbia Montenegro, Canada; 23.5—Georgia, Spain A, Estonia, Hungary, Belarus; 23.0—Uzbekistan, Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Latvia, Sweden; 22.5—Germany, Greece, Australia, Lithuania, Denmark, Norway, Vietnam; 22.0—Netherlands, Argentina, Belgium, Iceland; 21.5—Philippines, England, Kazakhstan, Spain B, Romania, Indonesia, IPCA

MALLORCA, Spain—International Master Jayson Gonzales and rookie Darwin Laylo salvaged hard-earned draws, but the Philippines still absorbed a stinging 3-1 defeat to Estonia Monday in the 10th round of the World Chess Olympiad.

International Master Mark Paragua stumbled at the top board, while National Master Emmanuel Senador misplayed a drawish endgame at Board 3 as the Filipinos plunged into a share of 40th place with England, Kazakhstan, Spain B, Romania, Indonesia and IPCA.

The Filipinos, who lost to Azerbaijan, 1-3, Sunday and to Poland by the same score Saturday now have 21.5 and need a big score against IPCA Tuesday to resurrect their faltering campaign.

Surprisingly, the mood is still upbeat in the Philip- pine camp.

"We're going to strike hard today," vowed RP team captain Sammy Estimo, hours before the start of the 11th round.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio, who took an extended four-day rest, returns to action to play the first board.

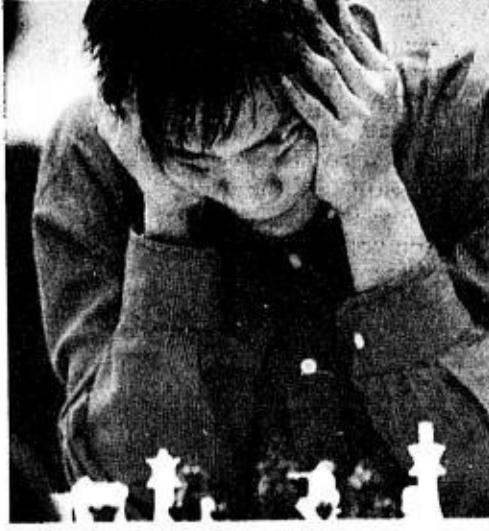
The absence of GM Eugene Torre and Antonio took its toll on the brave Filipino side.

First to fall was Paragua, who bowed to veteran GM Jaan Ehlivest (2631) in 45 moves of a Slav de- fense.

Playing black, the 20-year-old GM-candidate was forced to give up a piece for two pawns early on. He managed to hold the Estonian at bay until finally capitulating following precise play by white.

It was Paragua's second loss in the tournament.

Gonzales, the regular Board 4 player, missed a winning middlegame in his English encounter with IM Aleksandr Veingold and battled hard in the endgame to save a draw despite a pawn down after 82 moves.



GM Joey Antonio finally returns to action today.

The Filipino yielded a pawn to give his two bishops room to maneuver, but overlooked a rook move that would have won him a piece.

As a result, Veingold managed to reduce the game into an endgame pitting his knight and four pawns against Gonzales' bishop and three pawns.

Laylo, the reigning national champion, won the exchange in a slabang King's Indian battle with IM Tervo Seeman, but was unable to press home the win and settled for an 80-move draw.

Senador's loss to IM Olav Sepp broke the hearts of the Filipinos. He inexplicably gave up his lone outside passed pawn under time pressure, allowing Sepp to run away with the victory.

Meanwhile, Ukraine drew with the United States to jack up its total to 29 points, two ahead of Russia, which edged France, 2.5-1.5.

Armenia routed Slovenia, 3.5-0.5, to gain solo third place, half-a-point ahead of the US.

In women's play, the Filipinas dropped a 2-1 loss to Bosnia Herzegovina.

WIM Beverly Mendoza and Loreshy Cuizon drew with Sanja Dedijer and Nada Skrkar Nada, respectively.

WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao, however, lost to WIM Elena Titova-Bovic at Board 1.

The Filipinas slipped to a tie for 57th spot with Brazil with 14 points, 10.5 points behind pacesetting China.

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September 27, 2004
2nd Elimination Round (3-Stag), Araneta Coliseum

September 29, 2004
Final Round (4-Stag), Araneta Coliseum

2nd LEG
Leg Champion Trophy
7-STAG DERBY

October 12, 2004
Elimination Round (3-Stag), Araneta Coliseum

October 14, 2004
Final Round (4-Stag), Araneta Coliseum

3rd LEG
Leg Champion Trophy
7-STAG DERBY

October 25, 2004
Elimination Round (3-Stag), Rooligan Mega Cockpit

October 27, 2004
Championship Round (4-Stag), Rooligan Mega Cockpit

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7

DAYS TO GO
SEASON BEGINS NOV. 3

WORLD SERIES

Curse and eclipse hover over Boston

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—A total eclipse of the full moon during Game 4 of the World Series here Wednesday could be a dark omen for Boston's seemingly cursed Red Sox or mean 'lights out' for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Seeking their first title since 1918, the Red Sox, who will start Pedro Martinez in Game 3, own a 2-0 lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final entering game three here Tuesday. They could complete a sweep Wednesday to end the legendary 86-year drought.

The Red Sox have not won a title since selling star Babe Ruth to the rival New York Yankees in 1919, while the Yankees have won a record 26 crowns since. Some explain the drought as a "Curse of the Bambino" for snubbing Ruth.

This will be the first Series game played while a lunar eclipse is visible, although a similar heavenly event came on the eve of the 1986 Series—one that produced an epic moment of heartbreak for the Red Sox and their devoted fans.

One out from winning the Series, the Red Sox squandered a two-run lead and lost game six to the New York Mets when an easy ground ball rolled between first baseman Bill Buckner's legs. The Mets won the game and the Series.

Could the eclipse be the curse returning to frustrate Boston again? Or might



MARTINEZ: Game 3 starter

The Cardinals saw star batters Albert Pujols, Jim Edmonds and Scott Rolen go hitless in nine trips to the plate with runners in scoring positions. St. Louis had a fielder hit by a ball on a bad hop and a runner miss tagging second base.

Could the baseball gods be saying "Bye Bye Birdies"?

"It's baseball. Just baseball," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said. "It wasn't anything from the gods."

Yet stars and stargazers alike will cast eyes to the heavens Wednesday at Busch Stadium despite forecasts of scattered rain showers.

The eclipse will begin just before the game starts, the moon's color taking on a reddish hue—the ruby orb a perfect lunatic lighting for a crimson show-down between the Red Sox and a club named for red birds.

As the game enters the crucial final innings, the moon is expected to be in full eclipse.

La Russa does not plan on his club's title chances disappearing in the night.

"We're a championship club," La Russa said. "One of the things we've done all along is if we get down we find a way to get back in it."

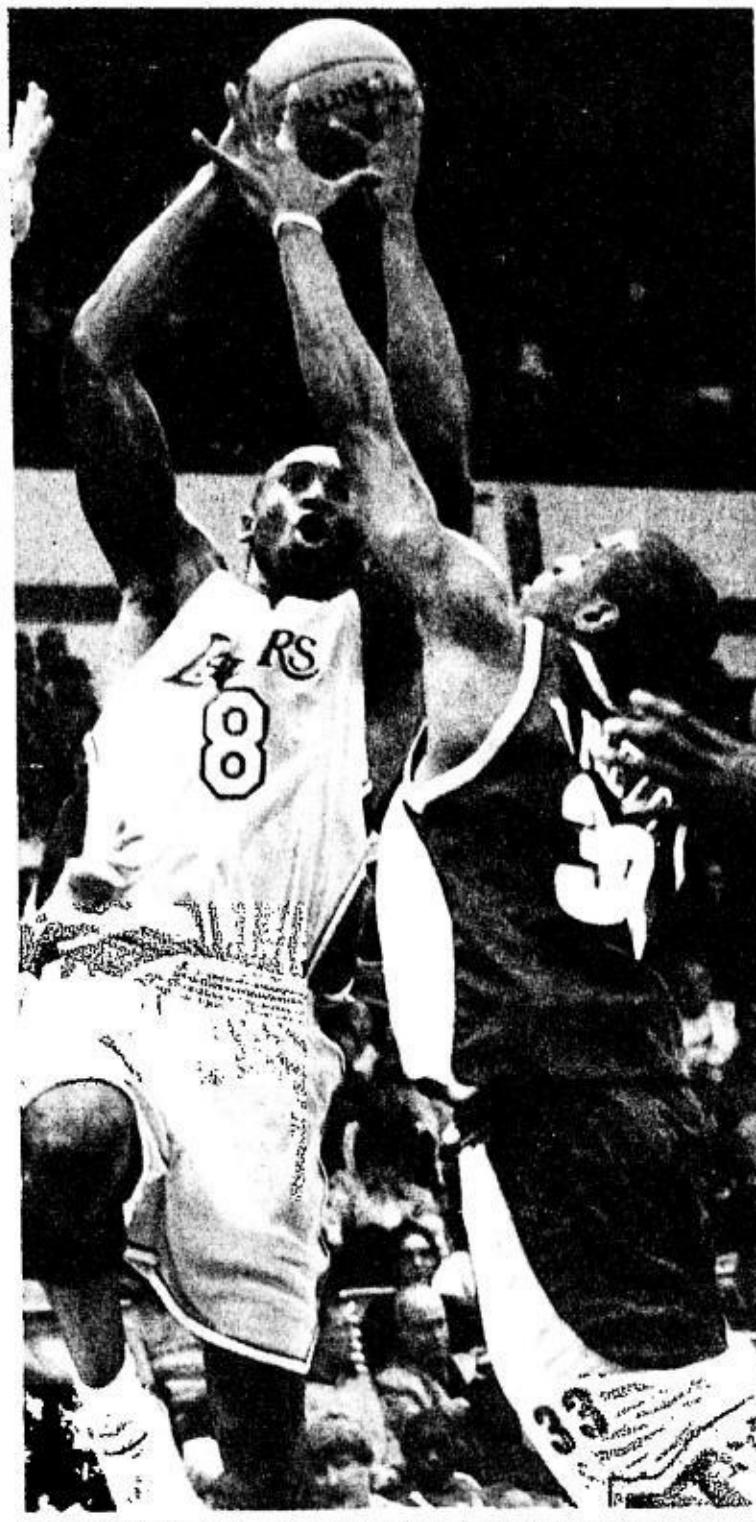
The Cardinals have won all six home playoff games this year but the Red Sox, who have won six playoff games in a row, do not want their advantage in the Series to become gone with the moon.

"We know what we have to do. We're not going to sit on this," said Red Sox closing relief pitcher Keith Foulke. AFP

the full moon vanishing be Ruth's final wink before his ghost bids farewell, halting the haunting just four days before Halloween?

Odd things have already happened this year in baseball, the most spectacular of them coming when Boston made the greatest playoff comeback in history by rallying from a 0-3 hole to oust the Yankees in the American League final.

The Red Sox made four errors in each of the first two Series games and still won both—despite stranding 21 base runners.



HANG TIME: Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant floats his way through the defense of Seattle SuperSonics' Antonio Daniels in a preseason match. The Lakers won, 117-91.

Dutch striker says he's innocent

LONDON—Ruud van Nistelrooy says he is innocent of charges he tried deliberately to hurt Arsenal full-back Ashley Cole during Manchester United's controversial 2-0 win at Old Trafford on Sunday.

The Netherlands international has been charged with serious foul play by the Football Association for kicking the England defender on the knee and could face a three-match ban.

However, van Nistelrooy told The Sun: "We both just went for the ball. It was a 50-50 ball and in these situations two players can collide."

Van Nistelrooy's challenge, missed by referee Mike Riley, was branded "a disgrace" by BBC TV pundit and former Liverpool defender Alan Hansen.

They also brought a "cheat" jibe from manager Arsene Wenger which is thought to have played some part in a tunnel fracas that erupted after the game that ended Arsenal's 49-game unbeaten run.

"Van Nistelrooy can only cheat people—we know him very well," said Wenger. AFP

Tiny Saragoza walks tall with 66

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG—Tiny Boyet Saragoza fired a brilliant six-under-par 66 yesterday using a new driver to zoom to the first-round lead in the Canlubang Amateur championships at the North Course.

With his downswing improved by Tony Arevalo and the driver given him by the caddy-turned-businessman finding all the fairways, Saragoza shot seven

birdies against a bogey to take a 3-shot lead over Raymund Sangil.

The 31-year-old veteran of the Putra Cup and Singapore Amateur campaigns had a 32-34 card, the only blemish coming at the par-3 15th where he failed to rescue par from the greenside trap.

Sangil shot a 69 after going three-under coming in.

Riviera standout Marvin Dumandan fired a 71 for third spot, one shot ahead

of Ronnie Torrecampo.

Korean Kim Chang Hoi occupied fifth after a 73, with Rufino Bayron, Jay's younger brother, sixth after a 74.

Meanwhile, Jay Bayron, Erwin Vinluan and RP Amateur champion Jun Bernis tee off tomorrow in the Hong Kong Amateur championships. In Puerto Rico, Juvi Pagunsan, Michael Bibat and Artemio Murakami open the country's bid in the World Amateurs, also tomorrow.

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- Managing Corporate Identity amidst Change to Build Stronger Brands
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- Warren Mawing, HSBC
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- Lisa Gokongwei - Chang, Summit Media

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ENTERTAINMENT



Outrightly, amazement and applaud, gulobilisasyon and other boob-tube boobooos

HOST: Wasn't it difficult for you, joining this bikini competition? After all, it's not easy parading around in a small bikini!

Guest: No, not really. I used to be a swimmer in school, so I'm used to walk around in almost naked.

(Ay, in almost naked?)

Host: Aren't you sorry that you caused 'so' much scandal with your sexy pictorial?

Guest: Well, *kahit masama ang ginawa ko, sana makatulong ako sa problema ng bansa*.

(And how can your sexy pictorial accomplish that?)

Host: What will happen to the politicians who have been pinpointed as customers of "sexort" service?

Guest: We will investigate them, depending on the documents.

(What documents? You mean, they signed something?)

Host: You have been criticized for the sexy things you say on TV, which some people say are indecent. Your comment?

Guest: There's such a words na freedom of expressions, right?

(Wrong!)

Host: After the fire that gutted your shopping center, what will happen now?

Guest: We assure our customers, on the burned site, a new building will be arrested!

(Ay, arrested [architectural] development?)

Host: What was the effect on the audience of your unique musical number?

Guest: Modesty aside, it got the amazement and applaud of different people!

(Ay, amazement and applaud!)

Host: I heard you have an unusual pet. What is it?

Guest: It's a civet.

Host: What's a civet?

Guest: It's like a mongoose.

Host: What's a mongoose?

(Dear TV host, don't you know anything?)

Host: What is the problem regarding sanitation in your place?

Guest: Ang problema sa tubig namin dito—may amayba.

(May amayba?

—oh, amoeba!)

Host: Are you nervous, now that your movie is about to open?

Guest: Oh, yes, I'm so tens!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



Host: How should we solve our huge problem of poverty?

Guest: *May kasabihan: Imbes na bigyan mo ang isda, turuan mong mangis-dal!*

(*Turuang mangisda ang isda? Ang gulo talaga!*)

Scriptwriting workshop

ABS-CBN is holding a TV drama scriptwriting workshop to be conducted by Ricky Lee. Submit a one-page storyline in any genre, and a comprehensive resumé before Nov. 8. E-mail Writers-Dev@abs.pinoycentral.com. Only 30 applicants will be chosen.

Review classes

AHEAD Tutorial and Review Center offers college entrance review classes on weekends at FRB building in Katipunan, Robinsons Galleria, SM Megamall and Annapolis, Greenhills. Call 426-0034.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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BERNIE FINEZA'S SON

'I love my stepdad very, very much'

By Nini Valera

"STARSTRUCK" finalist Kirby de Jesus would like his real father, former *Hagibis* member Bernie Fineza, to know that he already considers another man his father and that he loves this man "very, very much."

"I already have someone that I consider my father," said Kirby, 15, in an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment last Monday. "There is nothing that he was not really my father."

be proud of."

Speaking in Filipino throughout the interview, Kirby repeated that his father Bernie had abandoned him, his brother and sister, and their mother Maita, when he was 5.

"I was still very young then," Kirby said. "I did not look for [Bernie] when I already had a mind of my own because there was already another person that I considered my father, even if I knew that he was not really my father."

Kirby said that after his father left,

they survived by living with one relative after another. His youngest brother became a child star in a soap that starred Eddie Gutierrez, and was also a commercial talent.

"That was how we survived," Kirby said.

Who paid the bills

His mother met his stepfather on the set of the soap where his youngest brother was featured, Kirby said.

"My stepfather was the cameraman,"

said Kirby. "His name is Mike Vicencio. He and my mother have two children—one is 3, the other is 7 months old."

He said his stepfather has been supporting the family, especially after his brother stopped appearing in soaps and commercials because he had reached an awkward stage.

"My stepfather paid all our bills," said Kirby. "He really acted as if he were our real father. He lives with us. I don't think he has another family besides us."



STARSTRUCK KID
Kirby de Jesus says he knows Bernie Fineza (right) is his father, "but not in the sense that I know him because we're together."

There are times, Kirby confessed, that he wished Mike Vicencio were his real father.

"I never asked my mother about my real father," Kirby admitted. "She did not want to be asked about him. I love my stepfather very, very much."

Last week, Bernie told INQUIRER Entertainment that he had tried to see Kirby and his other children but "they were kept away from me."

Now that his real father is asking Kirby to recognize him, the boy said he does not know what to do.

"I don't know what to say to that," he said. "My mom told me not to give any comment."

Kirby claimed that his mother had not forced him to join "StarStruck."

"If she forced me, why am I eager to attend (workshops, tapings)?" he said. "Even if no one accompanied me, it's OK."

TV commercials

Kirby said he joined "StarStruck," a talent search on GMA 7, since he is fond of talent shows like this. He recalled that he was also a finalist in "That's My Boy," a talent search on the noontime show "Eat Bulaga," also on GMA 7.

"I had wanted to join "StarStruck" since last year," Kirby said. "But I was only 14 then."

The show only accepts contestants who are at least 15 years old.

Kirby said he had done television commercials before he joined the amateur talent contest. The last commercial he did was a TV ad for a fabric conditioner, where he was in a supporting role, he said.

A high school student of Liceo Institute of Science and Technology in Bulacan, Kirby wants to be a "seasoned actor or a certified public accountant."

"But I really like to be an actor," he admitted. "If I am not lucky enough, I would like to take up accounting. But I can't say what would happen in the future."

His reason for joining "StarStruck" and for wanting to be a star is so that he could have money to help his family.

"If I become famous, it's automatic that I would rise above my poverty," said Kirby, who lives in a small apartment in Bulacan.

"I want all my siblings to be able to study," he said. "I also want to be able to repay my stepfather's kindness."

Not a singer

Kirby wants his father Bernie to know that they are now living a quiet life.

Asked if he were mad at his father for abandoning them, Kirby hesitated before saying, "That's a hard question to answer. I don't know."

He said he did not get his talent from his father. "I am not a singer (like him)," he said. "I am more into rap."

He is also not familiar with his father's songs in *Hagibis*, except for "Katawan," which was used as the theme song for "Palibhasa Lalake."

"I know he is my dad," said Kirby, referring to Bernie, "but not in the sense that I know him because we are together."

He considers his mother his best friend, describing their relationship as "very, very close."

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'Manchurian Candidate' premiere

BASED on Richard Condon's classic best-selling novel, the mesmerizing story of mind control and abuse of political power was first filmed in 1962 starring Frank Sinatra in the role of Major Ben Marco. After more than four decades, Sinatra's daughter Tina Sinatra has produced the 2004 remake of "The Manchurian Candidate."

The premiere of "The Manchurian Candidate" on Friday, Oct. 29, at SM City Manila is

sponsored by the Philippine Council of Management for the benefit of the Collectors Association of the Bureau of Customs.

Directed by Academy Award winner Jonathan Demme ("The Silence of the Lambs"), the contemporary version stars Oscar winners Denzel Washington ("Training Day," "Glory") as the tormented Major Marco, Meryl Streep ("Sophie's Choice," "Kramer vs Kramer") as the powerful Sen. Eleanor Shaw, Jon



WASHINGTON (left) and Schreiber in "Manchurian"

Voight ("Coming Home") as Eleanor's political nemesis and young star Liev Schreiber ("Scream 1,2,3") as Shaw's congressman son.

Co-written by Daniel Pyne ("The Sum of All Fears") and Dean Georgaris ("Lara Croft: The Cradle of Life"), "The Manchurian Candidate" is presented by Paramount Pictures and released in the Philippines by United International Pictures through Solar Entertainment Corp.

For premiere tickets, call 522-4204, 245-2796, or 832-3035. Regular run starts Nov. 3.

Magnavision brings 'Shrek 2,' holds parties

ONCE upon a time, an ogre embarked on the ultimate adventure, battling a dragon and climbing the tallest tower to rescue a princess. Now, Shrek is back for more, with Princess Fiona and Donkey in the kingdom of Far Far Away. They meet hesitant in-laws, the devilishly cunning Fairy Godmother, the self-absorbed Prince Charming and the ferocious yet adorable feline Puss in Boots.

Magnavision Home Video and Dreamworks Entertainment bring the biggest animated film of all time in "Shrek 2." Each purchase of the "Shrek 2" video gives the buyer a chance to win instant prizes, as well as to sing your heart out with the Magic Sing Premium Microphone at Odyssey and O-Music outlets nationwide. Buyers can also win a Samsung Home Theater in the raffle promo at all Astrovision outlets.

Magnavision holds a Halloween masquerade party at The Podium (The Lounge) on Oct. 29



"SHREK 2"

to 31, and the Funtastic Halloween masquerade party on Oct. 30 to 31 at the Greenhills Theater Mall. The Halloween parties are also presented by Samsung and Act II, in cooperation with The Podium and Greenhills Theater Mall. They are also sponsored by

Selecta Moo, Legend Cheeky Curls, Fruitella Lollipops, World of Fun, Kidz World, Pottery Exchange, Picture Company and Powerbooks, with media partners Mellow Touch 94.7, 103.5 K-Lite, 91.5 Energy FM, 93.9 I-FM and ClicktheCity.com.

No third party caused . . .

From page A2-4

the network's rival, GMA 7, to be with Nancy.

The now-un-couple can be seen every Sunday on the soap "Love to Love" on GMA 7.

"A lot of reporters have been calling me about the break-up, but I prefer not to talk," said Paolo, adding that whatever the cause of the separation was, he'd rather keep it between him and Nancy.

"I really don't know what would happen next," he said. "Basta right now, we're on a cooling off stage. We're trying to work things out."

"If I say we're doing fine, baka mapahiya ako dahil hindi pala. If I say it's bad, I might ruin my only shot at saving it."

Paolo said he does not spend as

much time with Nancy now because he is busy filming "Spirit of the Glass" for the Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

"But we still communicate," he said. "We exchange text messages and call each other as often as we can."

Paolo and Nancy were both on the now-defunct GMA 7 tele-series, "Hanggang Kailan." Paolo played the kind-hearted Dennis who fell in love with the deaf-mute Tara, portrayed by Nancy.

Paolo said he left ABS-CBN because his contract with the network had expired and he got a good offer from the other network. At the same time, the move gave him the chance to be in the same network with his girlfriend, he added.

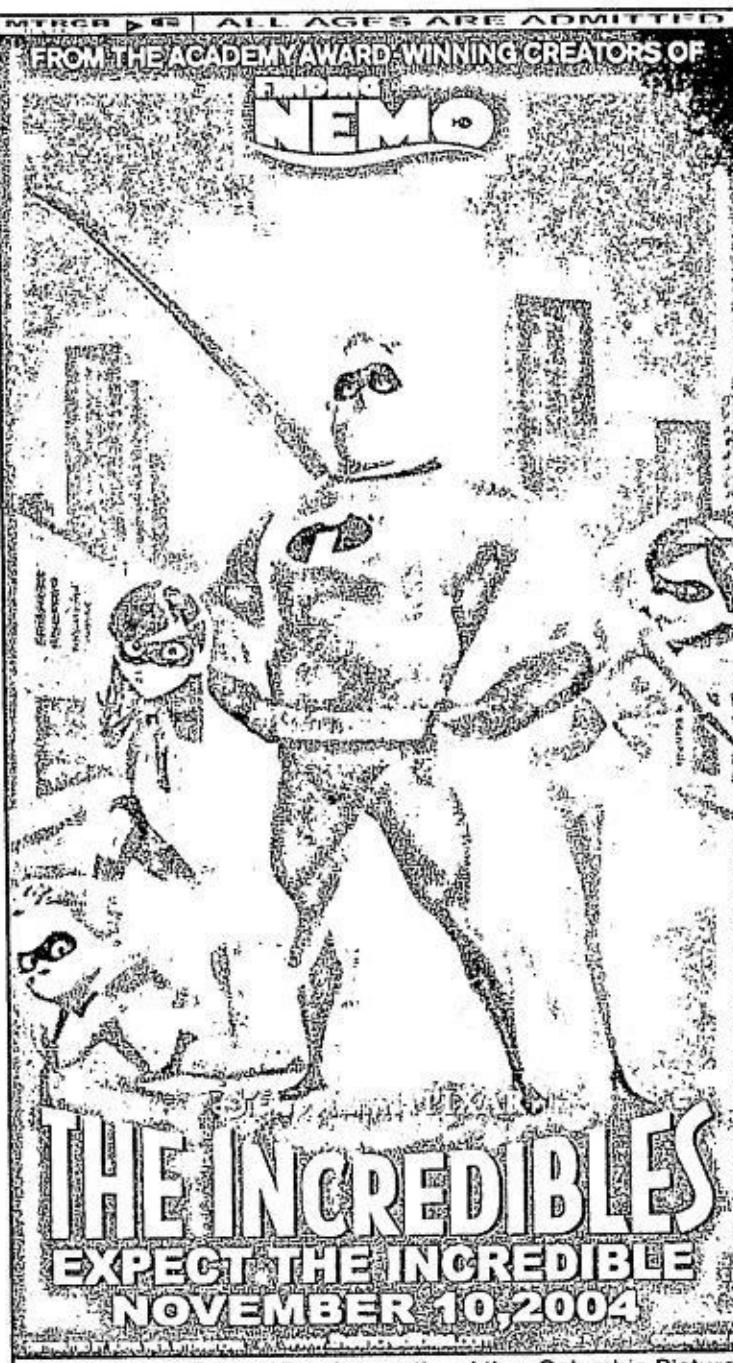
3RD WEEK!

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FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"



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To protect two white divas, they have to become them.



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#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
THE GRUDGE's spectacular
\$40M boxoffice
(first three days of release)



Sarah Michelle Gellar and Bill Pullman in THE GRUDGE

THIS WEEKEND Sarah Michelle Gellar led the North American box office with the opening of the new horror film **The Grudge** which sprinted past industry expectations to deliver a spectacular bow at number one.

Two years ago in October, DreamWorks opened **The Ring** (a remake of Hideo Nakata's **Ringu**) to just \$15 (compared to **The Grudge's** \$40M) on its way to \$129.1M and has **The Ring 2** (to be directed by Nakata) slated for release in March 2005. **The Grudge** should continue to encourage Hollywood studios to buy up remake rights for hit Asian films from Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong which can be transformed into American blockbusters with western stars.

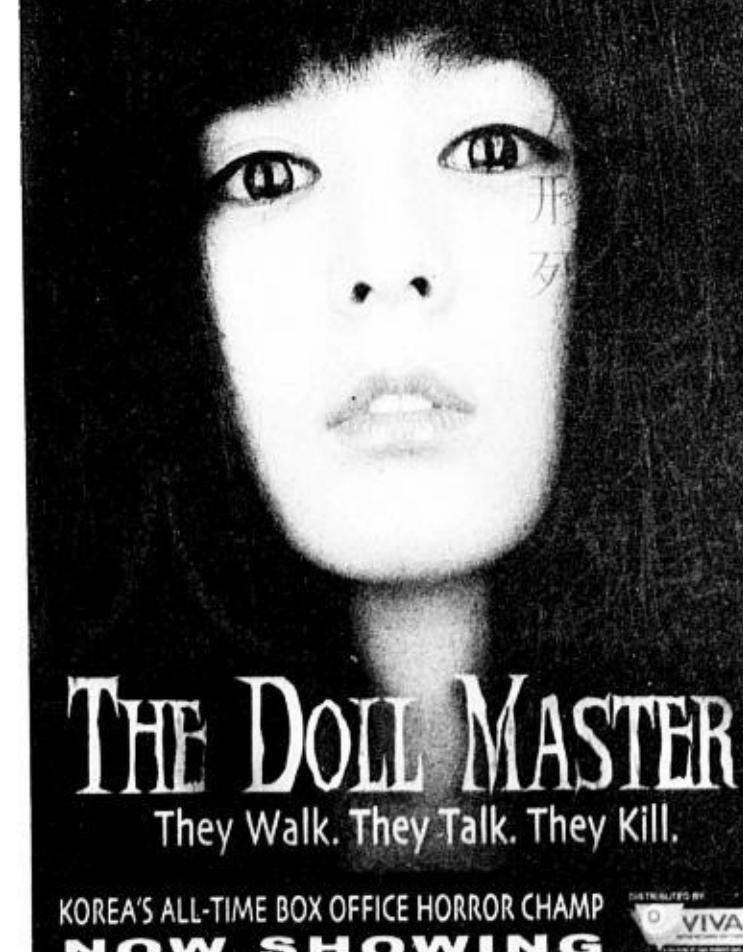
Scaring up a horrifyingly potent \$40M in its opening weekend, according to estimates, Sony's **The Grudge** took control of the box office grossing more than the next four films combined as young moviegoers looking for a fright flick a week before Halloween lined up in huge numbers. The Sam Raimi (Spiderman) produced remake of the hit Japanese thriller **Ju-On: The Grudge** boasted the same director, Takashi Shimizu, and found the former vampire slayer playing an American student in Japan working in a house haunted by a curse. Playing extremely wide in 3,245 theaters, **The Grudge** averaged a bone chilling \$12,327 per venue.

Gellar brought plenty of starpower to her fifth career top spot debut which featured her in exactly the type of film that fans wanted to see her in. Sony picked a terrific launch date as late October is typically when moviegoers demand scary movies the most.

[BY GITESH PANDYA, www.BOXOFFICEGURU.COM ADVT.]

MTRCB R-13

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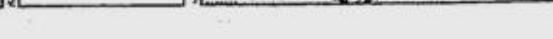
BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a natural way with words. You're convincing, witty and intelligent. People want to hear what you have to say. You're also emotional and energetic! (Few know how sensitive you are.) You like to be appreciated, and you perform best when this happens. Increased solitude in the year ahead will help you learn something important.

Birthday of: John Cleese, actor; Dylan Thomas, writer; Theodore Roosevelt, 26th US president.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Resist the urge to try to make somebody over today, especially a partner or someone close to you. You have to learn to live and let live.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel flirtatious and attractive (And of course, you're youthful and playful because you always will be.) This means you can have a great time with others.

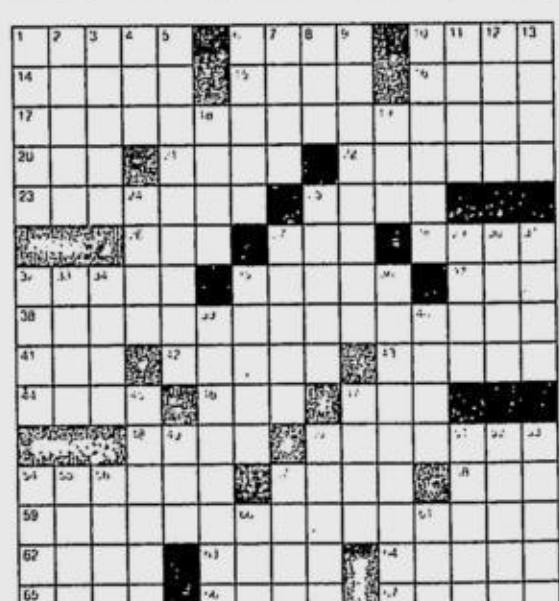
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can get gargantuan amounts of work accomplished today! You're ready to move mountains. You will certainly work until the job is done. (Admirable.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can make great improvements at home today. They might be related to renovations, plumbing, garbage, septic systems and recycling. Work hard right now.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 English track
6 Weaponry
10 Word of woe
14 "Chico and the Man" co-star
15 Hall a satyr
16 People
17 Brothers
20 Yale grad
21 Top-rated
22 Stick
23 Makeshift ballpark
25 Creole veggie
26 Long-standing
27 Anatomical pouch
28 California wine valley
32 Shorthand, in short
35 Sarandon of "Bull Durham"
37 Swap punches
38 Bolters
41 Water cooler?
42 Tournament rankings
43 Confession of faith
44 Used cars
46 Born in Brest
47 Christmas drink
48 Naval fuzz
50 Very
54 Greasy spoon
55 Box or bucket follower
58 "Norma..."
59 Bolters
62 Old Mercury coin
63 Leave off
64 Con-game decoy
65 Arabian gulf
66 "Six Feet Under" character
67 Broadway awards
DOWN
1 Parcels of suburbia
2 NFL coaching great Don
3 Room on a liner

By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

CARTOON

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You'll strive very hard to get what you want today. You're turned on and motivated! Furthermore, you see what is actually possible. (That is what really triggers you.)

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Now is the time to talk to government officials or people in libraries, prisons and hospitals. You'll be like a hot knife cutting through butter. Everyone will step aside for you.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day for group activity. You can get a lot done through others. As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work." (Not a light-bulb joke.)

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're very ambitious today. You want something, and you intend to get it. Since motivation is half the battle, you will get what you're after.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's as if ordinary, everyday boundaries don't exist for you today. Plans to travel or expand your world through education unfold easily. Try to help others as well as yourself.

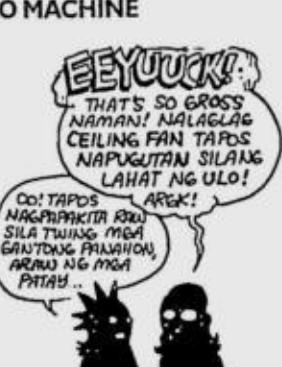
PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20): You have a chance to use the resources of someone else to make improvements in your own career. And possibly, others are just ready to help you.

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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KIKO MACHINE



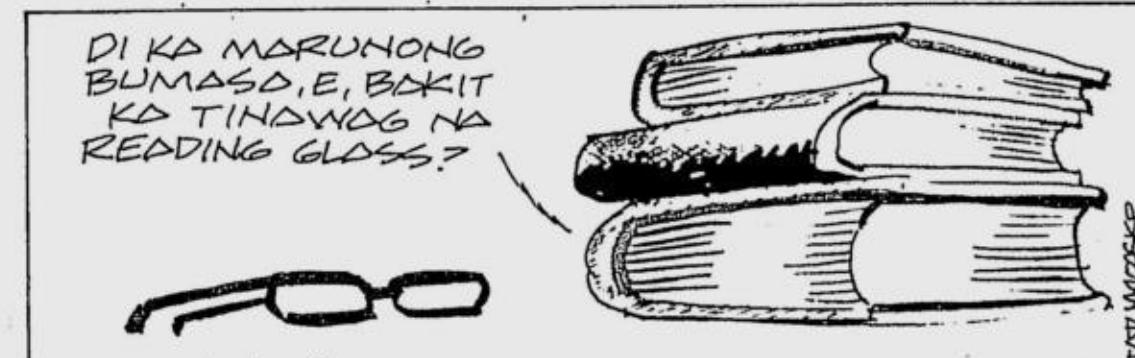
BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS



BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK



BY PAPU AND TUM MILAMBILING

ENTERTAINMENT

'No third party caused our Split'

By Marinel R. Cruz

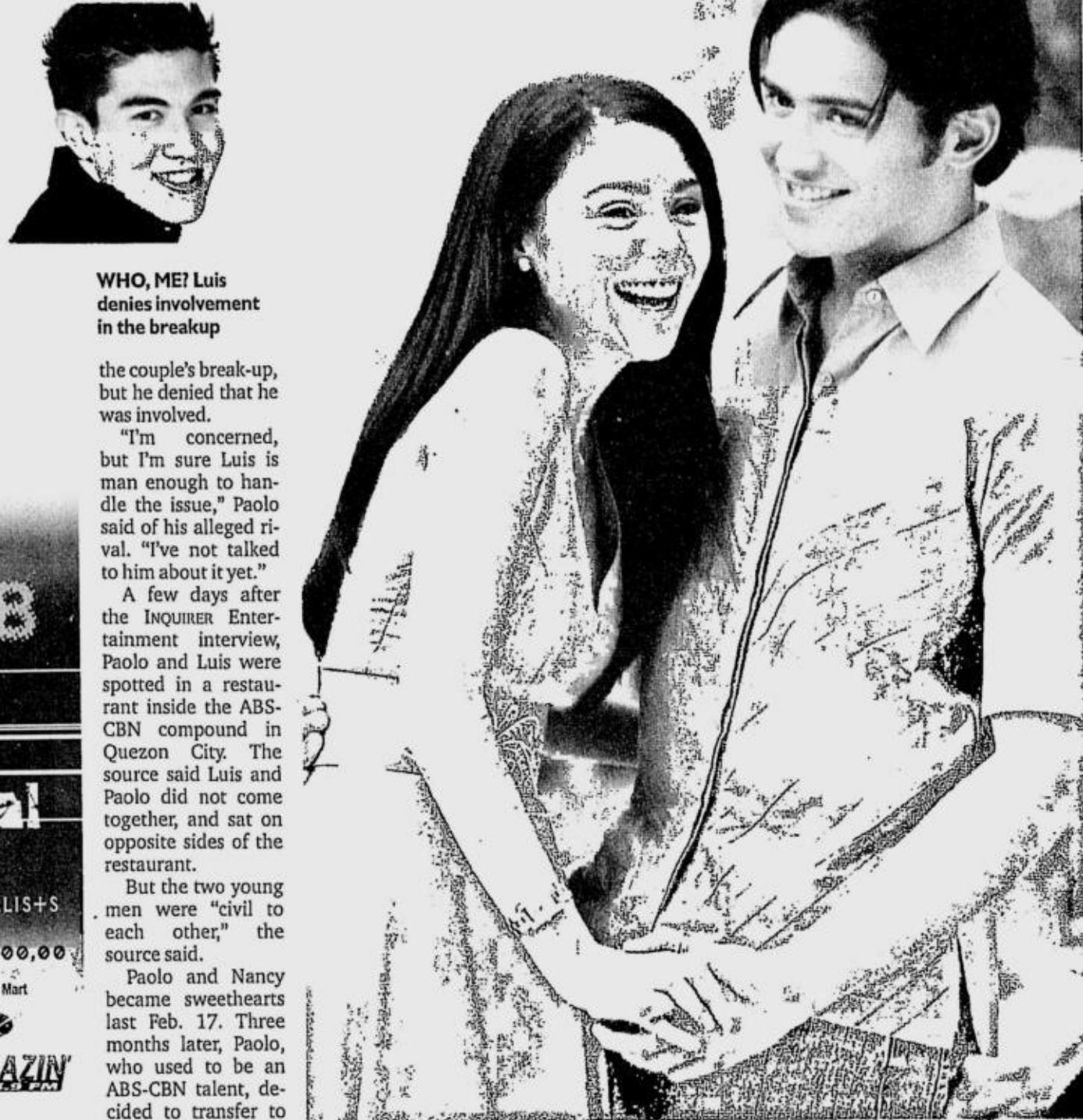
YOUNG actor Paolo Contis insists that his eight-month relationship with Fil-Canadian Nancy Castiglione did not end because of a third party.

"I find it offensive that some people make it look like Nancy cheated me," Paolo told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "It's not true. Kawa na-

man ang girlfriend ko.

"Neither of us got involved with other people while Nancy and I were together," Paolo stressed.

According to talk in show biz circles, Nancy's former boyfriend, Luis Manzano, was the cause of the breakup. But in an interview on the show biz talk show "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN last week, Luis said he had indeed heard of



WHO, ME? Luis denies involvement in the breakup

the couple's break-up, but he denied that he was involved.

"I'm concerned, but I'm sure Luis is man enough to handle the issue," Paolo said of his alleged rival. "I've not talked to him about it yet."

A few days after the INQUIRER Entertainment interview, Paolo and Luis were spotted in a restaurant inside the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City. The source said Luis and Paolo did not come together, and sat on opposite sides of the restaurant.

But the two young men were "civil to each other," the source said.

Paolo and Nancy became sweethearts last Feb. 17. Three months later, Paolo, who used to be an ABS-CBN talent, decided to transfer to

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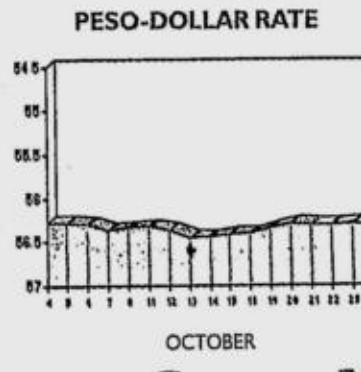
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Gov't drops gross income tax proposal

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STOCK MARKET

Shares up 1.91%

SHARES closed nearly 2 percent higher yesterday as telecoms leader PLDT led a late rebound on expectations of higher third-quarter earnings after the market fell to a one-month low on Monday amid rising inflation fears.

The main stock index rose 33.09 points, or 1.91 percent, to 1,768.78 points. The index has risen 22.6 percent so far this year.

Turnover was a hefty P1.84 billion, more than double Monday's P731.75 million.

Traders said there was a cross sale of 60 million Banco de Oro Universal Bank shares at P18 each, for a total of P1.08 billion.

"People are positioning on stocks, like telecom companies, that are expected to report high earnings in the third quarter," said Roberto Cano, analyst at BPI Securities.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's dominant phone firm, gained 1.49 percent to P1,360. Number two player Globe Telecom Inc. added 4.57 percent to P1,030, while third-ranked Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. jumped 6.56 percent to P1.30.

Globe is due to announce quarterly results on Thursday. PLDT, the nation's biggest listed company valued at \$4.25 billion, reports a week later.

Three brokerages polled by Reuters forecast PLDT's July-September profits in a range of P5.2-P6 billion, up from P4.01 billion last year.

Globe, which did not launch any new mobile services during the period, is expected to post third-quarter profits of P3-P3.6 billion against P3.2 billion a year earlier.

Ayala Land Inc., the Philippines' largest property firm, gained 1.45 percent to P7 ahead of its third-quarter earnings on Thursday, when it is expected to announce an 8-10 percent rise in net profit from P604 million.

Its parent, Ayala Corp., rose 3.23 percent to P6.40, while the group's banking arm, Bank of the Philippines Islands, gained 1.09 percent to P46.50.

In the broader market, gainers outpaced losers two to one.

Traders said the market would take direction from earnings reports during the rest of the week.

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has modified the unpopular proposal of a gross income system of taxation and is now pushing for a uniform 28-percent income tax rate both on corporate taxpayers and self-employed individuals, hoping it would be more acceptable to the private sector and the legislature.

In a speech during the 5th Business Outlook Conference yesterday, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the DOF, together with other members of the government's economic team, would be lobbying for the so-called "simplified net income tax system," or SNITS, in exchange for the earlier proposal of a gross income tax.

Currently, corporate taxpayers are slapped a uniform 32-percent income tax rate, while self-employed individuals are imposed a graduated income tax rate, with 32 percent as the maximum, de-

pending on the amount of their income.

Under the new DOF proposal, corporate taxpayers will be imposed a lower income tax rate. As a safeguard, however, the government will be the one to specify the allowable deductions from a company's gross income, and the resulting amount is where the 28-percent income tax shall be based.

For self-employed individuals, the DOF is proposing to cap the allowable deductions at 40 percent of one's gross income. This means that the deductions al-

Tighter money policy seen early next year

By Doris C. Dumla

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is expected to tighten monetary policy in the first half of 2005.

Such a move is seen to jack up the average interest rate, based on the benchmark 91-day treasury bill, to 8.3 percent.

This was based on an economic outlook briefing yesterday by Bank of the Philippine Islands, which also projected a lower economic growth and higher inflation for next year.

"We're looking at a high interest rate environment," said BPI asset manager Herbert Arabelo.

He said BPI was forecasting the bellwether treasury bill rate to average higher next year from a projected average of 7.3 percent this year.

"This is due to BSP's intervention in the first semester," Arabelo said.

An intervention can be in the form of higher overnight policy rates or an increase in the reserve requirement on banks.

During its latest monetary policy setting, the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board voted to maintain key policy rates unchanged at the same levels since July last year as threats to in-

TIGHTER/B4



CEBU-MACTAN INTERCONNECTION

President Macapagal-Arroyo prepares to lay down the time capsule marking the site of the P2-billion interconnection project of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) that will link the industrial zones of Mactan Island with the power generation facilities of Cebu. The project is expected to boost the export manufacturing sector of the Central Visayas region. Assisting the President are, from left, Jules Alcantara, Transco vice president for Visayas-Mindanao, and Dr. Alan Ortiz, Transco president.

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Spain eyes RP as gateway to presence in Asia

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SPANISH companies, with help from their government, yesterday opened

a three-day trade show at the Hotel Intercontinental as Spain eyed the Philippines as a gateway in establishing a greater presence in Asia.

Dubbed Espana Exporta 2004, the exhibit features some 25 wine and gourmet, personal care, and infrastructure engineering com-

panies as well as small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Jose Miguel Cortes, an economic and commercial counselor at the

Embassy of Spain here in Manila, said during the opening rites held yesterday the trade mission was looking at potential business partnerships with local firms especially on road and highway projects.

"We have one firm that is among those in preliminary talks with the proponents of the South Luzon Expressway [upgrade and extension]," Cortes said.

The Department of Trade and Industry is pushing for the repair of the Alabang viaduct and the 8-kilometer link between the South Luzon Expressway and the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road. The viaduct repair would cost about P2.8 billion while the Slex-Star connection would cost at least P1.8 billion.

Cortes said the firm, which he declined to name, wanted to engage in the engineering and design and construction of the pro-

ject as well as a possible outlay for a build-operate-transfer equity.

"We are investigating some BOT opportunities in road, water and waste management," Cortes added. "We have started or are set to start serious discussions with the national and provincial administrations."

He said Spanish investors control 45 percent of all BOT contracts worldwide but none so far in the Philippines.

Cortes said total trade between Spain and the Philippines reached an all time high in 2003.

According to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, whose speech was read by Undersecretary Zoraida Amelia Alonzo, Spain was the country's 29th trading partner accounting for 0.29 percent or \$210 million of total \$74-billion Philippine trade with the world.

Local firm invests P142M in outsourcing venture

AN ALL-FILIPINO firm is investing P142 million to put up an outsourcing application development project that would cater to clients in North America, Japan and Europe, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Pointwest Technologies Corp. will offer application development services through combinations of onsite, offsite and offshore project management and development activities.

The firm's portfolio covers software development and code enhancements. Pointwest services are designed to rapidly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its clients' operations.

The company's project started commercial operations earlier this month at the Citibank Corporate Center and would employ 478 information technology professionals.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the local IT industry has grown dramatically over the past 30 years.

"From \$10 million in export revenue in 1989, the industry now exports approximately \$1 billion in IT services and has generated some 290,000 skilled professionals," Hernandez said.

He added that the country has five operational cyberparks and 1,739 registered IT firms all over the country.

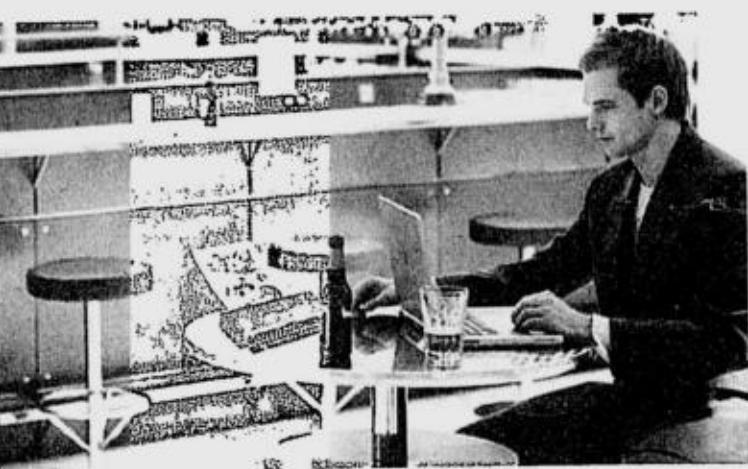
In a related development, the DTI said vital infrastructure was being laid down in Cagayan de Oro in the city's bid to become the next IT hub in Mindanao.

According to the Regional Development Council 10, Cagayan de Oro was setting in place business parks that would accommodate IT firms such as the Pueblo de Oro Business Park.

RDC 10 said the Philippine Economic Zone Authority had in principle approved Pueblo de Oro as an IT zone. The necessary documents needed are completed and Pueblo de Oro is awaiting proclamation from Malacañang. Ronnel W. Domingo

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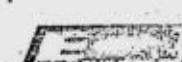
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Angara loses farm appeal

SEN. EDGARDO Angara has no choice but to slug it out in the Nasugbu Regional Trial Court over the ownership issue of his 6.75-hectare farm in Hacienda Balaytigue, which is also claimed by Fedman Development Corp. of the Bernasconi family.

The Supreme Court has just rejected a petition for a certiorari review filed by Angara, who had wanted the Nasugbu RTC to render a judgment based on a commissioners' survey report on the questioned area as well as to implead adjoining property owners.

"The Rules of Court clearly provides that the trial court is not bound by the finding of the commissioners or precluded from disregarding the same," ponente Justice Maria Alicia Austria-Martinez said.

"It may adopt, modify, reject the report or recommit it with instructions, or require parties to present further evidence," she said.

Two other justices, Leonardo Quisumbing and Romeo Callejo, concurred, upholding a previous Court of Appeals' decision that had

denied Angara's certiorari motion. The suit stemmed from a 1996 action filed by Fedman for quieting of title, claiming Angara had fenced off the wrong property for his weekend farm.

The Batangas court set aside the commissioners' report since the survey had been conducted individually by three court-approved geodetic engineers, instead of the survey having been jointly conducted by the three.

The court case was nearly thrown out during the Erap years, after Fedman failed to prosecute and move the case past the pre-trial stage.

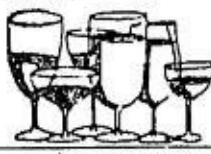
Philrealty plots turnaround

PHILREALTY, which has daily been bumping the 50-percent rise ceiling since the stock began trading again last week, plans to build a Megaworld-style condominium in its Fort property instead of its original plan with bigger, Alexandra-sized units.

Now being used as a parking lot in front of the UCC coffee shop, the property offers a better promontory point to the Manila Golf fairway

COCKTAILS

Victor C.
Agustin



than the Pacific Plaza Towers.

According to the grapevine, Philrealty principal Gerardo Lanuza has successfully rounded up a group of investors, including fellow iBank director Enrique Razon Jr., to provide fresh funding for the Fort project.

The projected profits from the Fort project will then be used by

Philrealty to finish its Andrea condo complex in what used to be the Pepsi compound in Quezon City's Balete Drive.

No Toda toady

EDSA II lawyer Mario Luza Bautista sought to distance himself from the P80-million tax evasion setback handed by the Supreme Court on the estate of former PAL owner Benigno Toda.

Bautista said that he was appointed co-administrator of the Toda estate in July 1994, after the businessman died in January 1994, and that he resigned the position.

COCKTAILS/B4

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| 2 months | 2.625% | 2.750% | 2.875% | 3.000% | 3.125% |
| 3 months | 2.750% | 2.875% | 3.000% | 3.125% | 3.250% |
| 6 months | 2.875% | 3.000% | 3.125% | 3.250% | 3.375% |
| 12 months | 3.000% | 3.125% | 3.250% | 3.375% | 3.500% |

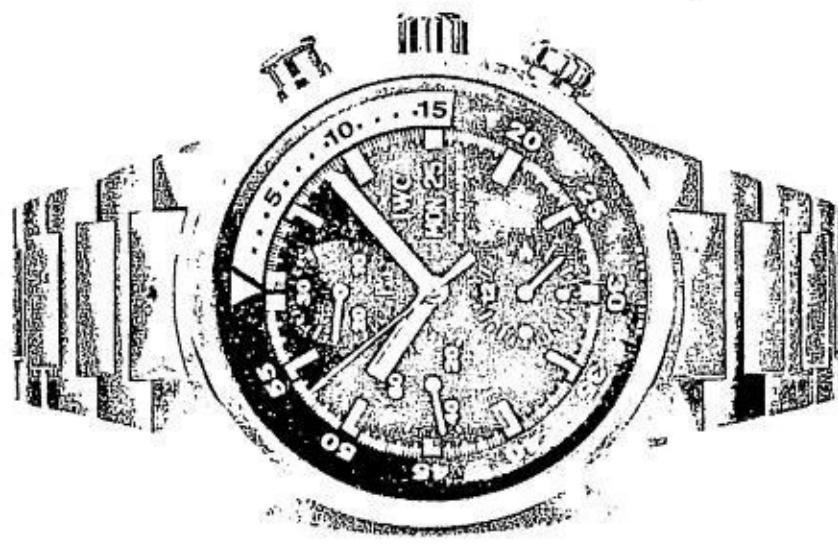
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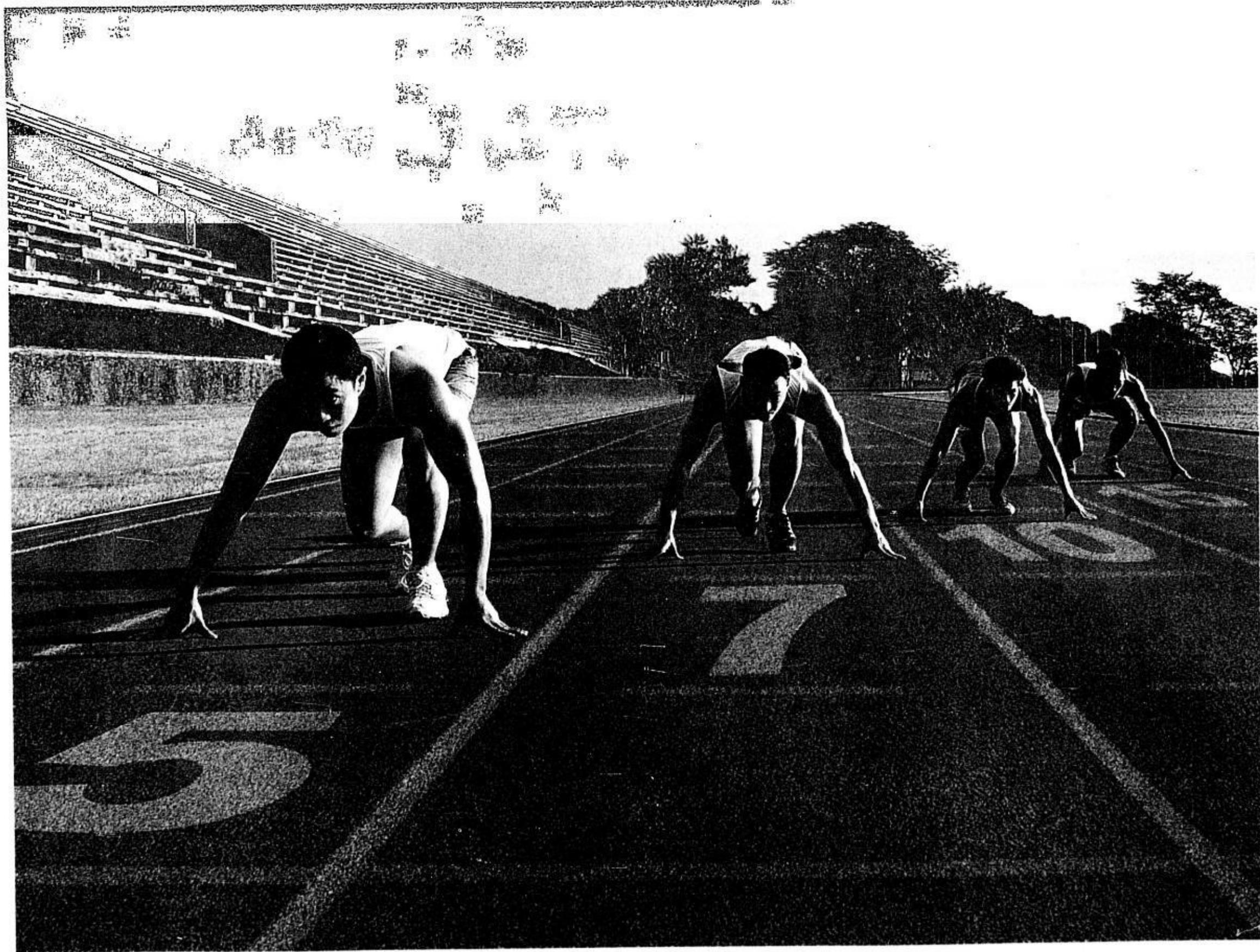
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 26, 2004)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES BANKS | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 71,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 18.25 | 18.55 | 18.18 | 18.25 | 60,118,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 46 | 46 | 46 | 46 | 2,579,100 |
| China Banking Corp. | 525 | 525 | 525 | 525 | 1,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 42.5 | 45 | 42.5 | 43.5 | 85,900 |
| Export and Inv. Bank Inc. | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 600,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 27.5 | 28 | 27.5 | 28 | 301,800 |
| Prudential Bank | 350 | 350 | 350 | 350 | 500 |
| Philippine National Bank | 22.25 | 22.25 | 21.75 | 22 | 34,700 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 20.25 | 20.5 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 408,800 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 22.75 | 22.75 | 22.75 | 22.75 | 4,000 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 190 |
| Manulife Corp. | 2405 | 2410 | 2405 | 2410 | 100 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1645 | 1650 | 1645 | 1650 | 3,130 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.05 | 2.05 | 26,400 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 995 | 1035 | 995 | 1030 | 40,950 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 1.66 | 1.68 | 1.66 | 1.68 | 145,000 |
| Info. Inc. | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 1,500,000 |
| ISIM Communications Corp. | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.035 | 2,000,000 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 60,000 |
| Philippine Tel. Corp. | 2.32 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 8,808,000 |
| Transpacific Broadcast | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 50,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1345 | 1370 | 1345 | 1360 | 92,990 |
| Ivantcorp. Corp. | 0.7 | 0.71 | 0.7 | 0.71 | 430,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 63,900,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.25 | 15.5 | 29,100 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 23.25 | 23.5 | 23.25 | 23.5 | 194,100 |
| Petron Corp. | 2.1 | 2.05 | 2.05 | 2.05 | 5,520,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 10,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 3,000 |
| Aboltiz Trans. Sys. Corp. | 5 | 5.1 | 4.95 | 5 | 895,000 |
| Int'l Container Term's Sv | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 30,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 2.24 | 2.36 | 2.22 | 2.28 | 5,532,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 10,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 63,600 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 28 | 28.5 | 28 | 28.5 | 48,100 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 10,000 |
| Swift Food Inc. | 59 | 59.5 | 56 | 56 | 146,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 70.5 | 70.5 | 70 | 70.5 | 621,300 |
| Univers Robins Corp. | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 44,000 |
| Vitanrich Corp. | 0.29 | 0.31 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 1,470,000 |
| HOOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 6.1 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 7,984,000 |
| Aboltiz Equity Ventures | 3.4 | 3.45 | 3.4 | 3.45 | 2,373,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.36 | 1.4 | 1.36 | 1.4 | 582,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 100,000 |
| Bacolod Cons Indus Inc. | 15.25 | 15.25 | 15.25 | 15.25 | 17,700 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 5,810,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 160,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.23 | 400,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 2.9 | 3.25 | 2.9 | 3.25 | 17,110,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 16,800,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corp. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 70,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 4.15 | 4.8 | 4.15 | 4.55 | 262,000 |
| NO. OF ADVANCES: 48. NO. OF DECLINES: 24. NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28. NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 910. NO. OF TRADES: 3,017 | | | | | |

CURRENCIES

| October 26, 2004 | Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|------------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| United States | Dollar | 0.780640 | 1.000000 | 56.2790 | |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007308 | 0.009361 | 0.5268 | |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.437315 | 1.841200 | 103.6209 | |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.100399 | 0.126611 | 7.2381 | |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.652982 | 0.836470 | 47.0757 | |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.639659 | 0.819403 | 46.1152 | |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.469501 | 0.601431 | 33.8479 | |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.582828 | 0.746603 | 42.0181 | |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.070718 | 2.652590 | 149.2851 | |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.208165 | 0.266660 | 15.0074 | |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000066 | 0.001110 | 0.0062 | |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.019013 | 0.024356 | 1.3707 | |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.212540 | 0.272264 | 15.3227 | |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.281000 | 72.0934 | |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.263285 | 0.337268 | 18.9811 | |
| Brazil | Real | 0.271244 | 0.347484 | 19.5549 | |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134500 | 0.172295 | 9.6966 | |
| India | Rupee | 0.017116 | 0.021925 | 1.2339 | |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.205459 | 0.263193 | 14.8122 | |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.067711 | 0.086738 | 4.8815 | |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.547703 | 0.701607 | 39.4957 | |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.121423 | 0.155543 | 8.7538 | |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.012984 | 0.016633 | 0.9361 | |
| Korea | Won | 0.125657 | 0.160966 | 9.0590 | |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.110268 | 0.141253 | 7.9496 | |
| Syria | Pound | 0.015047 | 0.019275 | 1.0848 | |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.023137 | 0.026368 | 1.6660 | |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000407 | 0.000522 | 0.0294 | |

Tighter . . .

From page B1

flation and the foreign exchange rate were still seen as manageable.

But while the BSP has successfully avoided rate increases this year, monetary authorities said they would not hesitate to tighten the rates to counter inflationary pressures in the future.

To date, the BSP's overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate was kept at 6.75 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate at 9 percent.

As of last Monday's auction, the 91-day treasury bill rate—used by

banks as the reference for pricing their loans—averaged at 7.869 percent, bringing the year-to-date rate at 7.19 percent.

By next year, Arabelo said there would be an uptrend in interest rates "due to fiscal concerns and rising global interest rates" although this would be mitigated by market liquidity.

He said the inflation rate would also likely surge due to the impact of skyrocketing oil prices, which were now hitting record highs since the Gulf War.

DISCLOSURES

Cocktales

From page B3

sition in October 1996.

"He was not my 'principal' as, in fact, I never even met him," Bautista wrote. He did not say who among the Toda heirs nominated him before the Makati Regional Trial Court to be named as co-administrator along with lawyer Lorna Kapunan.

"I did not participate in the BIR tax cases, other than as a nominal party, in my capacity as the Toda estate special co-administrator," he said.

Another Bitanga

IT WAS not Mateo Bitanga, but a certain Don Bitanga, that stockbroker Vivian

Yuchengco referred to in Monday's column, for having been disqualified, for lack of residency, from seeking to contest what should have been the uncontested reelection bid of Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. in the last elections.

Yuchengco said she does not know and has not even met Mateo Bitanga or his son Anthony, who until yesterday the family of golf columnist Arsenio Laurel were trying to evict from their Corinthian Gardens home for not paying rent for several months.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SUPREME Court has reduced

the combined damages to be collected by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay from former Makati Councilor Robero Brillante on four counts of libel from P1 million to P500,000.

The jail term, a minimum of four months imprisonment for each count, stays.

The conviction stemmed from a published open letter and a press conference in 1988 where Brillante accused Binay, then Makati officer-in-charge, of plotting to assassinate then mayoral candidate Augusto Syjuco.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

DIABETES

SBC sells P100M worth of idle assets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TWO commercial banks are making significant progress in disposing their idle assets through auctions.

Publicly-listed Security Bank Corp. sold 40 foreclosed assets worth more than P100 million in two auctions this year. SBC appointed CB Richard Ellis as auction manager.

Security Bank had some P3.015 billion worth of idle assets as of June.

CB Richard Ellis Philippines director Jojo Salas also said Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. (Metrobank) would hold a public auction for 150 assets on Thursday at the Philippine AXA Tower in Makati.

Metrobank has a total of P2.32 billion in idle properties as of June representing 8 percent of its total assets.

Supporting the banking industry's efforts to clean up their books, the Securities and Exchange (SEC) recently said it had approved 36 applications from companies that proposed to help banks and other financial entities dispose of their idle assets consisting of bad loans and foreclosed properties.

Among the SPVs registered with the SEC, Unimark Investments Corp. led by Filipino-Chinese businessman Robin Sy had the biggest capital at P2 billion against the minimum authorized capital of P500 million required for such companies.

RP seen to remain under IMF post-program monitoring

By Doris C. Dumla

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund, which is sending a review mission to Manila next month, said it wanted to keep the Philippines under its post-program monitoring (PPM) arrangement in view of the country's fiscal woes.

At the sidelines of the 5th Annual Philippine Business Outlook conference yesterday, IMF country representative Vikram Haksar told reporters that a delegation from Washington would hold another round of consultations with Philippine economic managers on Nov. 4 to 17.

He said the government could choose to keep its PPM arrangement "for as long as the Philippines has outstanding borrowings from the IMF."

The PPM can be terminated when the outstanding loan with the IMF falls below a certain threshold or quota.

In the case of the Philippines, however, he said it was "helpful to have the PPM."

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier declared that the government was in a fiscal crisis and urged Congress to pass key revenue-raising measures.

"I see no downside in keeping the PPM," Haksar stressed.

The PPM provides for frequent consultations between the Fund and its members whose arrangements have expired but who continue to have outstanding credit with the IMF. Particular focus is placed on policies that have a bearing on external viability.

The Philippines holds semi-annual PPM discussions with the IMF each year. During the last PPM discussions in July, the IMF's biggest concerns were the country's huge public sector deficits, the debt-ridden power sector and slow pace of bad asset disposal in the banking industry.

The country "graduated" from the IMF in 2001 but remains under its supervision. The government said a standby program with the IMF would be considered only as a last-ditch funding option.

Although the country was now a net depositor to the IMF instead of a net creditor, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura believes the PPM is crucial in confirming the soundness of the government's economic program.

As of June 30, 2004, the Philippines has an outstanding debt with the IMF worth 629 special drawing rights (SDR) or 71.5 percent of its 100 percent quota.

Each SDR, the unit used by the IMF, is worth about \$1.5.

MRT-7 group buys P1-B land in Bulacan

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNIVERSAL LRT Corp., the proponent of Metro Rail Transit 7 project, yesterday signed an agreement with The Manila Banking Corp. for the purchase of the latter's 193-hectare property in Bulacan for almost P1 billion.

Eli Levin, chief executive officer of Universal LRT said the consortium would develop the property and transform it into a \$500-million real estate venture that would complement the \$1.2-billion railway project.

The MRT-7 consortium plans to turn over 20 hectares of the property to the national government in phases to offset the \$900-million, 15-year sovereign exposure to the integrated transport project.

Levin said the group was negotiating to buy 200 hectares more and out of that, 35 hectares could be given to the government.

The Bulacan property was owned by the family of Gregg Araneta but was foreclosed by Manila Bank. The bank surrendered the property to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as payment for its loans.

Levin said Manila Bank repurchased the property from the central bank with the blessing of the Monetary Board.

Penta Capital signed the purchase agreement with Manila Bank in behalf of the consortium.

The MRT-7 consortium will pay the bank for the land over a five years with an annual interest of 6.5 percent.

"The purchase of the land shows the proponent's intent to make good its commitment to the government to create a buffer for its exposure and to provide an upside for the entire project," said Levin.

New rate-setting scheme for power distributors eyed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission is finalizing the guidelines that will determine a power distributor's rate based on its performance.

The performance-based rate-setting (PBR) method uses incentives to motivate power distributors to reduce their costs and improve their operations.

This is expected to result in better electricity rates, a more efficient delivery of service to customers and the optimal use of a firm's assets.

The ERC said in a statement yesterday that this rate-setting scheme was a "win-win" proposition for both investors and consumers" as the risks of doing business were also shared by the investors and consumers.

The other areas that have adopted the PBR scheme included Victoria in Australia, Ontario in Canada and the United Kingdom.

The PBR scheme is embedded in the distribution wheeling rates guidelines (DWRG) that the ERC is currently finalizing.

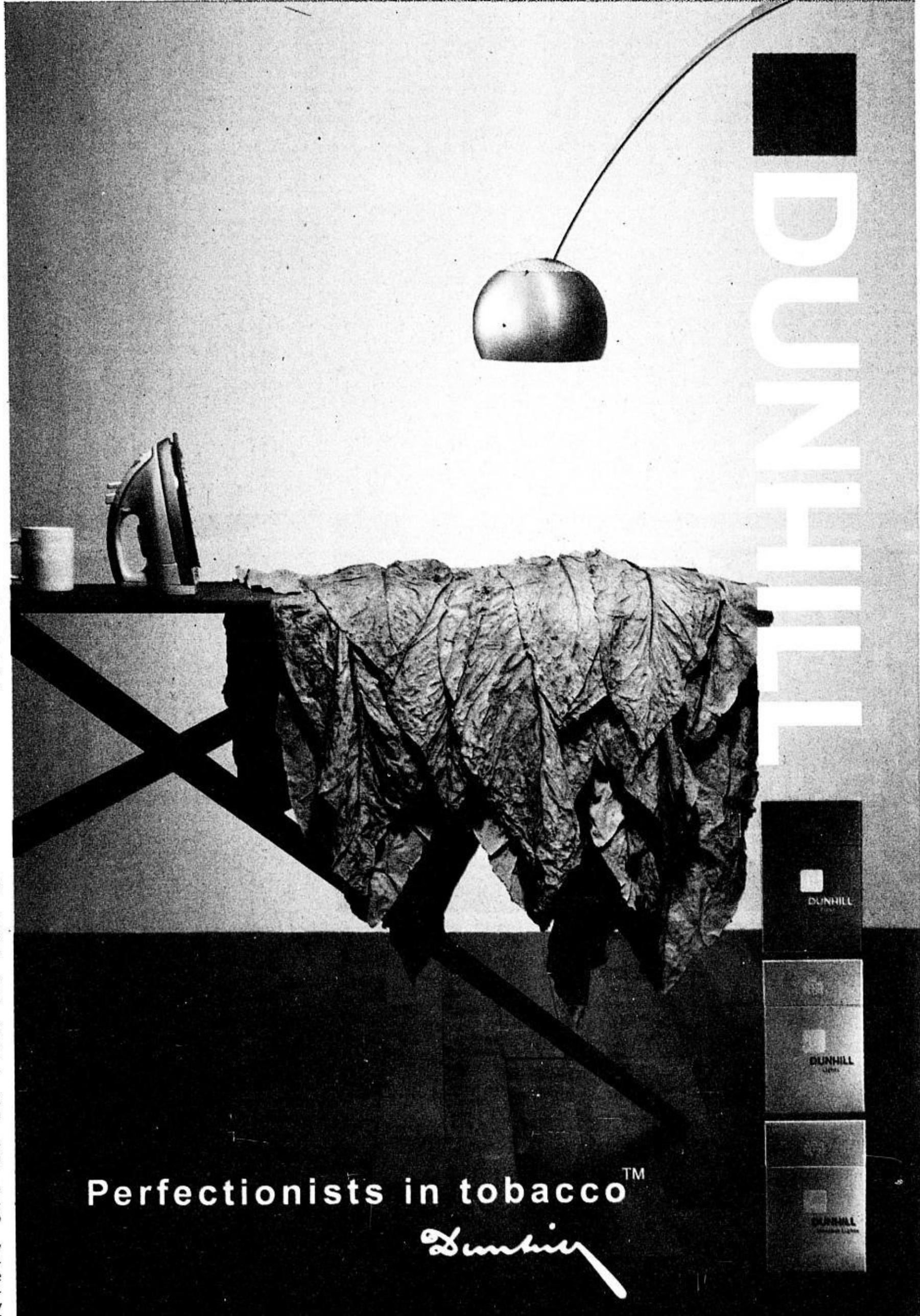
These guidelines will set the criteria in determining the maximum distribution wheeling rates that utilities will be allowed to charge on their customers.

"ERC initiated the formulation of a new rate-setting methodology in pursuit of an internationally accepted rate-setting scheme that will be more responsive in ensuring reasonable and non-discriminatory electricity rates and promote regulatory stability," ERC Commissioner Alejandro Barin said.

He said the regulatory body was encouraged by the fact that the power distributors seemed interested in shifting to the PBR scheme.

The ERC recently concluded the second and final public consultation for the draft DWRG. Distribution utilities Manila Electric Co., Davao Light and Power Co., Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. Inc., Dagupan Electric Corp., Visayan Electric Co. Inc. and Cabanatuan Electric Corp. were present during the meeting.

The public consultation gave the stakeholders a chance to air their views for incorporation in the final guidelines. Most of the comments made during the final consultation focused on the financial and technical aspects of the guidelines.



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RP'S 'DARKEST REGION'

ARMM: Bottomless pit of NEA finances

By Jerry E. Esplana

(Third of a series)

THE AUTONOMOUS Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) remains a beaten patch of land lagging behind in the nation's rural electrification program.

Nearly 70 percent of the households and establishments in ARMM are still without power. Economic stagnation stalks the region.

In June, only 117,084 (33 percent) of 357,200 homes and other potential connections in the region had been energized, according to a National Electrification Administration report.

The NEA, an attached agency of the Department of Energy, expects to achieve 90 percent nationwide household electrification by 2017.

Power, courtesy of state-subsidized electric cooperatives, had reached only 65 percent of ARMM's 2,609 barangay units. Those already energized include so-called strongholds of Muslim separatist groups.

An oldtimer at the NEA referred to the ARMM as the country's "darkest region."

ARMM has the most number of "black-out areas"—villages where many local folks make do with homemade kerosene lamps, if not battery-operated ones to light up their nights.

Those places seemed frozen in time, said the NEA staffmember, who has traveled several times to Mindanao.

ARMM is also the "region with the lowest level of human development in the country," said the congressional and planning office of the House of Representatives.

In a 2003 report, the House body referred to the ARMM as "a gloomy picture of a region mired in high levels of poverty, low level of productivity and poor delivery of basic services."

The ARMM (population 2.8 million in a census taken in 2000) groups the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi—destinations which, for obvious reasons, are not exactly at the top of everyone's travel list.

The region is rich in culture, but that

did not prevent it from being battered by decades of armed conflicts and, in recent years, by sporadic eruptions of terrorist activities.

The same NEA report also revealed that in Southern Mindanao (North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani), only 54 percent of households has electricity.

In the same league are Central Mindanao (59 percent), Caraga (62 percent), Western Visayas (64 percent), Western Mindanao (65 percent), Eastern Visayas (66 percent), Central Visayas (68 percent), Mimaropa or Region 4-B (69 percent), and Bicol (71 percent).

Central Luzon, President Macapagal-Arroyo's home region, tops the NEA list with a high energization rate of 90 percent, that is 888,600 households in the provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Zambales and Aurora.

The 35-year-old program looks infinitely better in the following regions: Ilocos, 87 percent; Calabarzon, 86 percent; Cagayan Valley and Northern Mindanao, 82 percent; Cordillera Administrative Region, 81 percent; and Caraga, 79 percent.

When interviewed, NEA head Edith Bueno said the agency was not to blame for ARMM's powerless state.

"We're doing our part in the government's bigger program of reducing poverty in the region," she said, stressing that the NEA had not given up on the region.

The rural electrification program has become instrumental in improving the socioeconomic lives of Filipinos nationwide, she said.

But "history" has not always been on the NEA's side, according to Bueno.

"It's the peace and order problem," she pointed out. "Many years of armed conflicts have adversely affected our program in that region."

Take Lanao del Sur, for example. The NEA boss recalled how, during the 1980s, the program went full blast in the area.

"But what did some people there do?" Bueno asked. "They vented their rage on the power lines, bombing and destroying them. That prompted government to

temporarily stop energizing the area. No investments were made. So it became powerless for at least 16 years. It was only in 2002 that we started putting up the power lines again."

The province's electric cooperative was also part of the problem, according to NEA documents furnished the INQUIRER.

In 2001, the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative or Lasureco was the country's worst performing electric cooperative. It placed 119th and last in the NEA scheme, which categorizes ECs according to their performance ratings—with A-plus being the highest. Those in categories C, D and E are considered financially distressed.

That year, Lasureco got an E-minus rating. In 2002, it moved two notches higher to 117th place, but it still received the same rating, like its counterparts in Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Cagayan de Sulu.

In June, Lasureco had energized only 26 percent of over 114,000 homes in its coverage area despite state subsidies of more than P142.6 million, the biggest slice in the P441.2-million aid pie.

Lasureco's poor performance has prompted the NEA to deputize Napocor to run the cooperative.

Lasureco is not alone in its troubles. The other ARMM ECs also have yet to emerge from the wilderness.

Their electrification efforts were anything but impressive: Siasi, 21 percent of 10,100 homes; Sulu, 22 percent of 83,000; Cagayan de Sulu, 25 percent of 3,000; Basilan, 35 percent of 64,800; Tawi-Tawi, 43 percent of 19,200; and Maguindanao, 56 percent of 62,700.

Lasureco has obtained more than P145 million in loans, P48.1 million of which were condoned by the state under Republic Act No. 9136, or the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001."

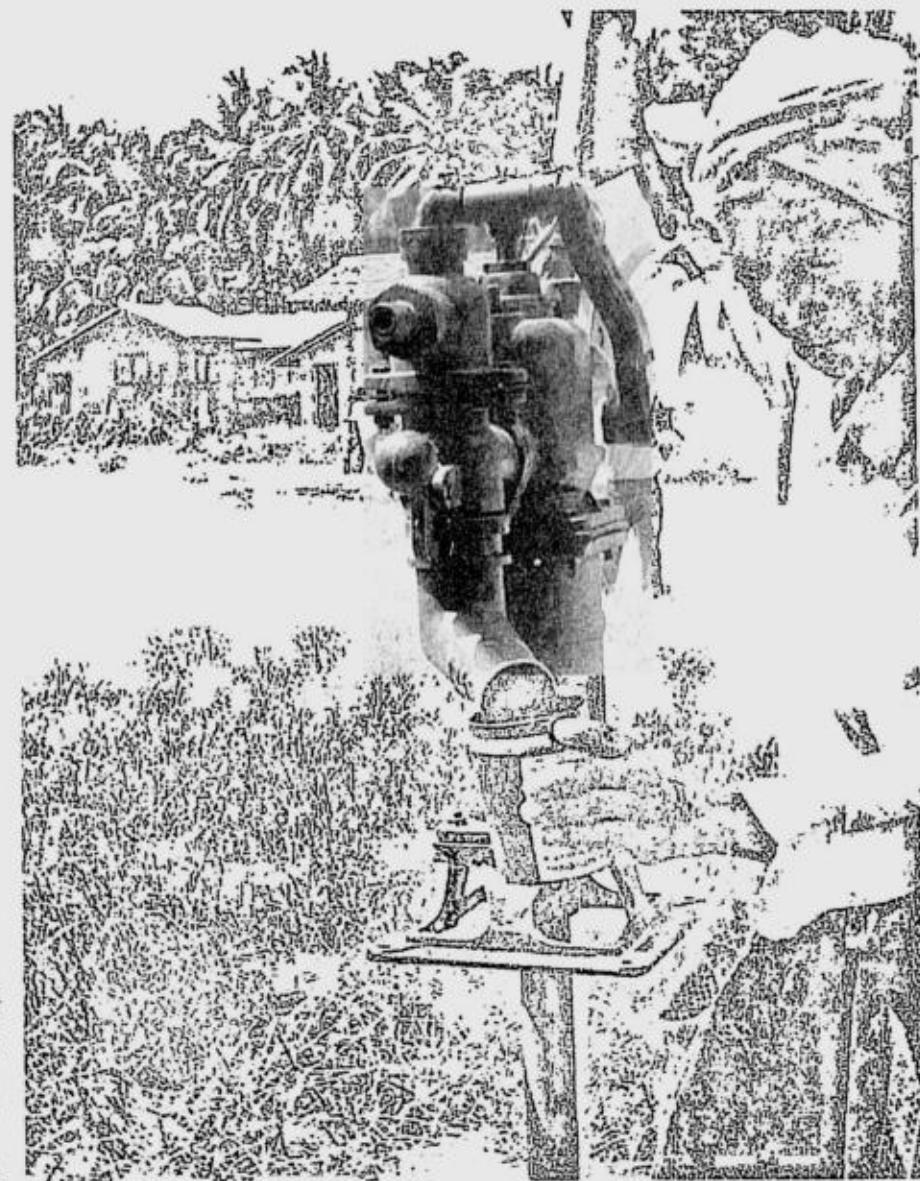
According to Bueno, Lasureco's power bills averaged P14-16 million a month.

"But only P2 million was being paid to Napocor," she said.

Lasureco had also posted the lowest collection efficiency rate among all ECs.

Bueno lamented that "many customers simply refuse to pay their electric bills."

"In Lanao del Sur, (the residents



AN ELDERLY woman draws water from a pump in the hinterlands of North Cotabato. According to the National Electrification Administration, electricity reaches a little more than half of all the households in North Cotabato.

PDI FILE

there) argued that Lanao lake, the region's main power source, came from Allah," she said. "So why should they pay?

If we cut off supply to non-paying customers, they'll say, inaapi kami (we're being persecuted). But they (the customers) should share the burden just like the others."

The cooperative in Lanao del Sur once

owed Napocor some P1.5 billion—the biggest among the cooperatives.

"Kung inaipyun, dapat noon pa pinutulan ng Napocor (The cooperative had not been persecuted. Napocor would have cut off its supply to the cooperative long ago.)"

Bueno called the ARMM the "bottomless pit" of NEA finances. (To be continued.)

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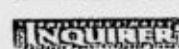
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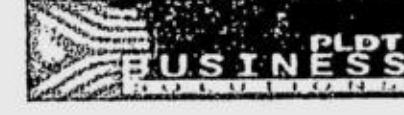
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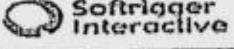
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UPGRADE

Oil prices dip to \$54/barrel as winter fears persist

SINGAPORE—Oil prices slipped toward \$54 a barrel on Tuesday, breathing easier after a Norwegian strike threat receded. But the markets are still anxious over the thin state of global pre-winter heating oil supplies.

US light crude for December was trading 48 cents lower at \$54.06 a barrel in early European dealing. Brent crude in London traded down 38 cents at \$50.40 a barrel.

Prices had surged to a new record \$55.67 on Monday after a Norwegian shipowners' group threatened to shut down the country's output to resolve a deadlocked strike, but those gains unraveled after the government stepped in to end the dispute.

Norway produces nearly 3 million oil barrels per day (bpd) and ranks as the third-biggest exporter behind Saudi Arabia and Russia.

"The market is taking a breather here, but the medium- and longer-term has not changed," said Tony Nunan at Mitsubishi Corp. in Tokyo. "The fact is, we're heading into the winter with relatively low middle-distillate stocks in the US, and Opec is maxed out. I think we'll see \$60 before we see \$45."

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has been pumping at nearly full throttle since the summer to meet the biggest annual leap in demand for a generation.

But according to Opec president Purnomo Yusgiantoro, there is no supply shortage to worry about as global crude oil overproduction is now running at some 2.1 to 2.5 million barrels per day.

Yusgiantoro yesterday said that he had already called on Opec members to release all their supply into the market "to give a positive signal ... that we are not (facing) any shortage."

He said that there was no problem with world crude stocks.

Yusgiantoro in Jakarta said current record prices around 55 dollars reflected a political risk premium of some 10-15 dollars.

"It is a geopolitical matter that is unrelated to the world oil market," he said, apparently referring to tensions in the Middle East.

But analysts believe that the world has little spare supply of oil to cushion the effects of unexpected outages such as last month's Hurricane Ivan in the US Gulf of Mexico.

The outage has impeded the seasonal stockbuild of winter fuels, with US heating oil inventories lingering 12 percent below last year's level.

US officials have said solid growth might be slightly diminished but not derailed by expensive oil, while fast-growing Asian importers continue to show evidence of strong demand.

Reuters, AFP

Asia shares gain on concern over global growth

SINGAPORE—Asian shares edged higher on Tuesday as investors showed increasing concern about threats to global economic growth.

Japan's Nikkei index ended up 0.12 percent at 10,672.46, as banks and insurers recovered. But exporters were hit recent strength in the yen.

"I don't think we've seen the end of this bout of dollar weakness," said Tohru Sasaki, chief forex strategist at JPMorgan Chase in Tokyo.

The dollar bought 106.73 yen, barely changed on the day and not far off the six-month low of 106.22 it touched on Monday.

An MSCI index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.25 percent, led by its consumer products component. Its technology component fell 0.93 percent, pulled by countervailing trends.

In Asia, Advantest Corp., the world's largest maker of chip testing devices, jumped 4.01 percent ahead of an earnings report that showed a near 12-fold rise in half-year profit.

But Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's largest contract microchip maker, dropped 2.31 percent just before posting record profits that jumped 84 percent from a year earlier. Rival United Microelectronics Corp. lost 2.46 percent.

Analysts said Taiwan's losses mirrored sector declines elsewhere on Friday. Taiwan's markets were closed on Monday due to a typhoon, and the benchmark index fell 1.94 percent on Tuesday.

Shares in Japanese banks and insurers rose. Mizuho Financial Group, Japan's biggest lender, was up 2.01 percent and top insurer Millea Holdings Inc. rose 3.7 percent. Canon Inc. shed 0.98 percent and Honda Motor dropped 1.18 percent.

Benchmark indexes were near flat to up 0.69 percent in Singapore, Australia, South Korea and in Hong Kong.

In Australia, media group News Corp. climbed 3.07 percent after shareholders overwhelmingly supported its plan to shift to the United States. The company also maintained its 2004/05 earnings guidance.

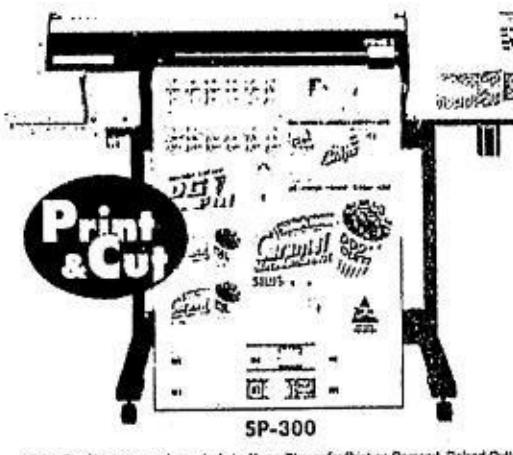
Japanese government bond prices rose fractionally after a 600 billion-yen (\$5.63 billion) auction of 20-year debt. The yield on the benchmark 264th 10-year JGB slid 0.5 basis point to 1.420 percent.

Reuters

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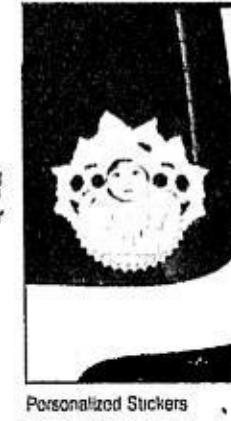
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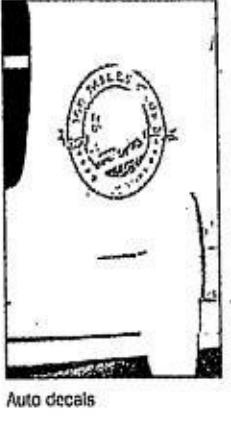
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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur
City of Bislig
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

October 22, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

- The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank for Japan Bank for International Cooperation, as the case maybe) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank for JICA, as the case maybe) Loans.
- The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Bislig City, as co-IMPLEMENTOR of the project invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the New Construction of the following:
 - Package "K" - Two (2) Storey - Six (6) Classroom School Building in Mangagoy East Elem. School located at Barangay Mangagoy, Bislig City (Bldg. I)
 - Package "L" - Two (2) Storey - Six (6) Classroom School Building in Mangagoy East Elem. School located at Barangay Mangagoy, Bislig City (Bldg. II)
- Bidding documents may be purchased at the City Engineer's Office with address at City Engineering Office, City Hall, Poblacion, Bislig City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of 2.5% in a form of cash or bank guarantee of the total bid price, and shall be delivered to the City Bids and Awards Committee on or before December 02, 2004 at 2:00 P.M., City Hall, Poblacion, Bislig City at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
- Pre-bid Conference will be on November 15, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at City Engineering Office, City Hall, Poblacion, Bislig City.

(Sgd.) FELIPE P. SABALDAN, JR.
Chairman
City Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - October 27, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Legal Counsel
Hearing Division
Natural Gas Office
Energy Center Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila

In the Matter of the Application for a Permit to Construct, Operate and Maintain an Own-Use Pipeline from its Refinery in Tabangao, Batangas to the Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. On-Shore-GAS Plant in Tabangao, Batangas

OLC and NGO Case No. NG-2004-001

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation
Applicant

(PDI - Oct. 27, 2004)

ORDER

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation has submitted an application to the Department of Energy (DOE) for a permit to Construct, Operate and Maintain an Own-Use Pipeline from its Refinery in Tabangao, Batangas to the Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. On-Shore-GAS Plant in Tabangao, Batangas.

This Office has set the hearing of the application at ten o' clock in the morning (10:00 am) on 15 November 2004 at the Audio-Visual Room, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Applicant is hereby directed to cause the publication of this Order once in one (1) newspaper of general circulation on or before 29 October 2004.

Any interested party who wishes to oppose or comment on the application should file its opposition or comments with this Office not later than 05 November 2004. Such party who wishes to have a copy of the application of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation may request from the applicant, through this Office, for a copy thereof. Applicant Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation is hereby directed to furnish, also through this Office, such interested party making the request with copy of the application and the relevant attachments.

Let copy of this Order be furnished the applicant immediately for its information, guidance and compliance.

SD ORDERED.

October 7, 2004, Department of Energy, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila

By Authority of the Secretary:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARTURO V. BALDALOA
Director, Office of the Legal Counsel

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANGELITO V. AGONCILLO
Chair, Hearing Division

(Sgd.) ENGR. JESUS T. TAMANG
Chair, Natural Gas Office

(PDI - Oct. 27, 2004)

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A FINANCIAL ASSET THROUGH A SEALED BID AUCTION SALE

The Development Bank of the Philippines ("DBP"), through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC"), hereby issues this invitation to interested parties to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the purchase of a financial asset, specifically investment in subordinated convertible notes (CN), on CASH BASIS ONLY. The outstanding principal balance of the CN is US Dollar: Thirty Million and 00/100 (USD:30,000,000.00).

The CN will be sold through a sealed-bid auction process (the "Transaction"). Detailed Bidding Guidelines will be provided to each bidder that qualifies to participate in the Transaction.

Each interested party that submitted itself for prequalification will be evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the Terms of Reference for Prequalification.

Each interested party submitting pre-qualification documents will be required to pay a registration fee of US Dollar: THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 (USD:3,000.00) (net of bank wire charges) as a condition for pre-qualification, among others. The Transaction Registration Fee is Non-Refundable and payment due date is non-extendible.

All interested parties may obtain the Terms of Reference for Prequalification from and at the following address:

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE ("BAC")
FOR THE SALE OF FINANCIAL ASSET
c/o Asset Management
2nd Floor, DBP Building
Development Bank of the Philippines
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1200

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements for prequalification shall be on November 11, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. Manila time and is non-extendible.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on December 2, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. Manila time, or on an earlier date that will be notified in writing by the BAC to the pre-qualified bidders. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the office of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

THE DBP ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY ANY BIDDER FOR ANY EXCUSE OR LOSS THAT ANY BIDDER MAY INCUR IN THE PREPARATION OF ITS BID.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION; AND, REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC thru the HEAD ASSET MANAGEMENT, 2nd Floor DBP Building, Development Bank of the Philippines, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City, Philippines or call (632)-830-0544 or e-mail us at amr@dbp.philippines.com.ph

(Sgd.) SEVP PANER E. TUMANGAN
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY
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ZSNCB-2004-013-015

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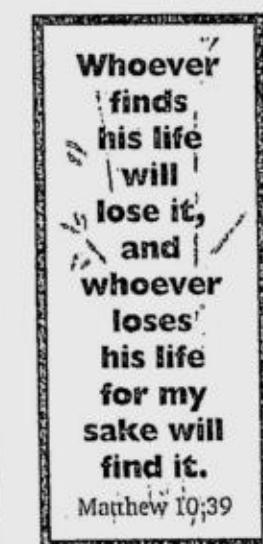
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BENIGNA QUINA TAMAYO

September 19, 1916 - October 25, 2004
Retired Teacher and Former Barangay Captain
Currimao, Ilocos Norte
Peacefully joined her Creator and her loving husband Vicente Tamayo on October 25, 2004 at the age of 88.

Her loving children Delia, Evangeline (†), Concepcion and Raymundo Rafols, Jr., Rosario and James Oania, Ray and Marilou Raguindin, Edwin and Cleofe Silao; her loving grandchildren Rodney & Raquel, Claire & Manny Salamat, Chandra Jean & John Hopkins, Alyssa Beth, Gareth James, Wendy Jane, Warren, Wesley Rae, Eliza May, John Ryan, Kevin Gregory and Marivic; her great grandchildren Christelle Ann, Ember Rose, Pascha Grace, Braeden Reece and Kristine May; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Currimao, Ilocos Norte. Interment will be at Currimao municipal cemetery on a date to be announced later.



Dr. Francisco C. Tiburcio

of Marikina City
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 23, 2004 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife Ning; daughters and in-laws Blen and Geoff Johnstone, Shieh and Philip Roldan; grandchildren Nicole, Jason & Lauren. Brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at De Guzman Funeral Homes, J.P. Rizal, Sto. Niño, Marikina City. Interment will be today, October 27, 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

CLASSIFIEDS

Nat'l theater festival gala events at CCP

THE MUCH-awaited theater event of the year, Ikatlong Tagpo: the 2004 National Theater Festival, which will feature the best of Philippine music theater, will hold its events from Nov. 6 to 18, 2004 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Dubbed as Piping: Gala Events, the performances include: Tian Jin Children's Peking Opera Troupe, child prodigies of the Tian Jin Theater perform highlights from kunju and wuqu masterpieces. Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, set on Nov. 6-7, 6 p.m. & Nov. 7, 3 p.m.; the world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir will return in Manila in a back-to-back concert with the country's award-winning Lobo's children's Choir in Nov. 9, 8 p.m. at Aliw Theater, Star City; Gilas Pagdiriwang Opera Pilipina, with the Philippine Opera Guild, the Philippine Opera Company, UP Conservatory of Music, the UST Conservatory and the Philippine Madrigal Singers to perform favorite areas from "La Loba Negra," "Spoliarium," "Noli Me Tangere," "Balagtas at Selya" and other Philippine operatic works by noted Filipino composers. Hermingildo Ranera conducts the PPO, to be slated on Nov. 10; Ryan Cayabyab, 2004 Gawad CCP Awardee takes audiences on musical journey of songs from "Larawan," "Rama Hari," "Magsimula Ka," "Katy" and other landmark musicals in Buhay! Mga Himig at Akit ng Dulaang Pilipino, slated on Nov. 12-13, 8 p.m. Leading performers from people's theater reunite in a musical homage to "seditious" sarswela, street musicals and protest concerts in Hanasi Natatanging Tagpo mula sa Musikangbayan, Nov. 14, 8 p.m. and; Isarig Bagong Buhay, a modern ballet and musical theater with the Philippine Ballet Theater on Nov. 18, 8 p.m.

Ikatlong Tagpo is a presentation of the CCP in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The festival will also feature children's musicals, premieres and revivals, late night cabaret, singthroughs, forums, exhibits, caucuses and international meetings. Move-over performances will also be held in associate venues in the City of Manila, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, St. Scholastica's College, GSIS Theater, Aliw Theater and Marikina Theater.

For more information, please call the CCP Performing Arts Department at tel. no. 832-1125 local 1606-1607 and CCP Marketing at locals 1800-1806 or direct lines 832-3681 / 832-3878 / 551-7930 or visit the "Ikatlong Tagpo" website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/itf.

Promote your products and services, boost your sales, and expand your local and international market... Be a SPONSOR or EXHIBITOR of the MUST-SEE EVENTS for the OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) and SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTREPRENEURS (SMEs) as well as their families. JOIN the...

Filipino Seafarers Family Expo and Forum 2004

The 2nd Philippine Exhibition and Conference on Job, Livelihood, Investment and Business Opportunities for the Seafarers and their Families

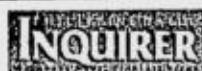
-- back-to-back with --

Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs

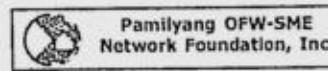
Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004

The 1st Philippine Exhibition on Real Estate Projects and Home Necessities for the OFW and SME Families

12-14 November 2004 * 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall



and



Greetings from the Inquirer Classifieds and Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and POFW-SMENFI are working together to come out with a very special supplement that will feature products and services for the OFW (including seafarers) and SME families.

This special pull-out section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a tabloid-sized section (7 cols x 30 cm) and is dedicated to feature the

Filipino Seafarers Family Expo and Forum 2004 back-to-back with Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004 SUPPLEMENT

This will definitely be the reference of choice. The Supplement is scheduled for release on November 12, 2004 at the opening of the above-mentioned events. In line with this, we are providing you with the following special advertising rates:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| FULL PAGE AD (23cm x 30cm) | = P 56,862.50 |
| HALF PAGE AD (23cm x 15cm) | = P 28,431.25 |
| QUARTER PAGE (11.5cm x 15cm) | = P 15,620.00 |

- * Full color advertising with NO color surcharge
- * Reasonable ad rates the most read broadsheet in the land
- * A most cost efficient and effective advertising medium

ADVERTISING CONTRACT

Yes, we agree to place _____ page ad in the Supplement in the amount of P_____ We also agree to submit the ad material in TIF, EPS or JPEG Format not later than _____

Name _____ Position _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

Tel. Nos. _____ Fax No. _____ E-mail _____

For more information, call the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc. Secretariat at Tel. Nos. (632) 912-58-03 and (632) 437-16-60 with Fax No. (632) 437-16-59; 24-hour mobile 0916-7421768; and E-mail: gearcom@tril-sys.com

NAPOLCOM, BCDA FORGES HOUSING/LAND SWAP DEAL

National Police Commission (Napolcom) chair and DILG Secretary Angelo T. Reyes (Left) and Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) vice president for operations Rex Chan (right) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that gave Napolcom 2,250 housing units worth P650 million located in Parayangang Diego Silang in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Under the agreement, Napolcom also retained 57 thousand square meters of its land in Fort Bonifacio and got an additional 13 thousand square meters. In exchange, BCDA received a two hectare property in Camp Bago Bantay, Quezon City which was also sold to Bellevue Properties, a subsidiary of SM Investments. BCDA also got a 30 thousand square meter land in Bonifacio Global City that covers the institutional area where the British School is located and a portion of the commercial area. Among the officials present during the MOA signing include BCDA vice president for business development Aileen Zosa, BCDA manager for Land and Asset Development Dean Santiago and PNP Director General Edgardo Aglipay.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2004

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

*"I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."*

Isaiah 49:6

The Missionary Society of St. Columban

mourns the death of

FR. WILLIAM BOURKE

*who died in Rhode Island, U.S.A.
on Mission Sunday, 24th October 2004
at the age of 75.*

Fr. Bourke was ordained in 1954 and then came to the Philippines. The archdiocese of Ozamiz was to be his place of assignment for the next fifty years. He served in Jimenez as assistant and later as pastor, then in Sinacaban as pastor and finally in Panaon, all neighboring towns in the province of Misamis Occidental. In 1981 he became the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, an office he held up until his death. He continued his pastoral ministry in Panaon until 1988 when he moved to the Columban House in Catacam, Ozamiz, combining the work of house bursar and manager with his work at the Chancery. Fr. Bourke was a greatly loved figure in the Archdiocese of Ozamiz.

May he rest in peace.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

TO : ALL ACCREDITED PDOS TRAINERS

Subject : Re-Orientation Course in PDOS Management

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) will be conducting a series of Re-Orientation Course in Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) Management for all accredited PDOS Trainers on 29 October 2004 and 05, 19 and 26 November 2004. This is in line with the development program and finalization of list of accredited PDOS Trainers. Those who fail to comply will be deemed no longer interested and will be delisted from the registry of trainers.

All accredited trainers are advised to submit a letter of intent on or before 28 October 2004, addressed to The Director, Plans and Programs Office (PPO), OWWA Building, F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City.

For more details, please contact Mr. Ronald A. Mina or Mr. John A. Macalincag at 8917763 or 8917601 loc. 5620.

(Sgd.) MARIANITO D. ROQUE
Administrator

(PDI--Oct. 27, 28 & 29, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE 1

Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. nos. 3400-590, 3400-594, 3400591; Telefax no. 3402949

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)-MEZ 1 invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Contract SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT OF PEZA at the Cebu Ecozones located in Lapu-lapu City & Balaan, Cebu.
2. The Approved Budget for the Contract is P 7,054,693.72 part of Cebu Ecozones Operating Budget.
3. Duration of the Contract is twelve (12) months from the date of the contract.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to interested Bidders, Juridical or individual, who meet the following requirements:
 - a. Must be PADPAO accredited but need not be PEZA accredited.
 - b. No existing contract with any local in any ECOZONE in Cebu.
 - c. Must have existing security guards available for immediate placement as required in the contract.
5. Application for Eligibility, Bid Documents and forms will be available for issuance starting October 20, 2004 to October 27, 2004 from MEZ I BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ I Lapu-lapu City upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00.
6. Pre-Bid conference is scheduled at 2 P.M. October 29, 2004 at the Conference Room, PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ I.
7. Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Eligibility and Bid Documents in three (3) separate envelopes marked as such (1) First Envelope - Eligibility Documents Envelope, (2) Second Envelope - Bid Envelope - Technical Proposal, (3) Third - Bid Envelope - Financial Proposal will be at 2:00 P.M., Nov. 12, 2004, the bidding date at the same venue.
8. The PEZA MEZ I BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that they may incur in the preparation of the eligibility requirements of the bids and to accept the bid advantageous to the Government. The provision of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply to this bidding process.

(Sgd.) BAC, MEZ I
BELÉNIA B. LOBITANA

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 27, 2004)

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespina@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Convergent market: Can managers anticipate?

CONVERGENCE, the business strategy of bringing together of originally disparate products and services to become one, is a well-rooted and global phenomenon. With the key drivers being the emergence of new technologies, deregulation and globalization, and the receptivity of customers, no industry is exempt from potential convergence.

AC Nielsen-Asia Pacific president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr asserted that it must become part of the strategic planning process whenever management sits down to think how they may compete successfully in their markets. "If you don't do it, your competition may, and worse, they may be working on it already," he added.

According to Niles, it is a result of

overt symptoms such as the blurring and elimination of traditional market boundaries; the erosion of traditional entry barriers; companies defining their competition much more broadly; widespread investigation of brand extension and emphasis on relationship marketing.

However, convergence may be under-integrated into marketing and strategic thinking due to lack of awareness that it is happening in all sectors; lack of appreciation of convergence as a source of competitive advantage; need to think "outside the box" and to rewrite of conventional industry boundaries and industry definition and lack of awareness of enabling technologies such as e-commerce and digital technology.

Learn more about all these in Niles'

presentation on the topic "Convergent Market: Can Managers Anticipate?" in the upcoming Agora Conference 2004 on Oct. 28 and 29 at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati. This year's theme is "Marketing Renaissance in a Convergent Market."

Organized by the Philippine Marketing Association, the conference will gather other marketing authorities: Karen De Asis, faculty and marketing director of DLSU Graduate School of Business; Ferdinand De La Cruz, head of Globe Telecom's wireless business group; Hon. Luis Lorenzo; and Tom Bangs Jr, president of AB Communications Inc. For inquiries, call the association secretariat at 634-4890; 634-5722; and 631-3286 or e-mail pma@philonline.com.



ARANETA CENTER NOW PEZA REGISTERED

Araneta Center Inc (ACI) was recently awarded a Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) registration, which officially recognizes the Gateway Office Tower and Gateway Call Center as information technology (IT) buildings. IT buildings or parks are areas that provide amenities and infrastructure support necessary for the promotion of the IT industry. Araneta Center's Gateway Office Tower and

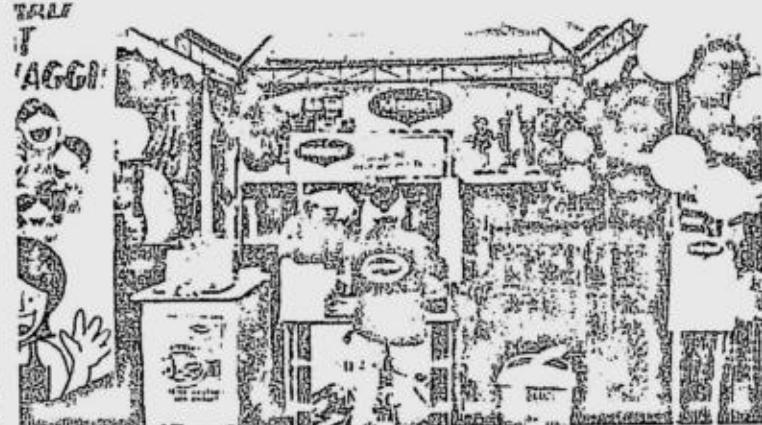
Gateway Call Center are expected to be the next IT hub in Quezon City. Present during the signing were ACI president and COO Teofilo R. Asuncion (2nd from left) and Peza director general Lilia B. de Lima (2nd from right). The signing was witnessed by Progressive Development Corp vice president for business John Castelo (left) and Araneta Center research manager Eugene Barcelona.



PROJECT WET FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE

Nestlé Waters Philippines recently conducted a whole-day Project Water Education for Teachers (WET) workshop for the officers of the Laguna Lake Development Authorities (LLDA) at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Bureau. Project WET aims to encourage educators to approach

learning and teaching with an environmental perspective and equips them with innovative methods of teaching about wonders and concerns of our water resources and the environment. Shown is a Project WET facilitator demonstrating one of the easy-to-learn, interactive and fun activities.



MAGGI LAUNCHES SINIGANG SA MISO

Maggi Sinigang sa Miso, the newest offering from Maggi, was recently launched through a series of wet market visits. Special promo teams dubbed as the Maggi Patrol went to different public markets around Luzon to do samplings, conduct games like the videoke challenge and pick-a-prize contest and sell various Maggi products. Maggi Sinigang sa Miso is the newest "sinigang" variant from Maggi. Convenient and affordable, it makes cooking "sinigang sa miso" easy and hassle-free. Maggi Sinigang sa Miso also has the taste of natural "sampalok" and the flavor and richness of real "miso", making it delicious and nutritious at the same time. The new Maggi Sinigang sa Miso is now available in leading supermarkets and groceries.

A solution to micronutrient deficiency

MANY western countries are finding ways to curb the growing problem of obesity. But in countries like the Philippines, the problem of malnutrition persists.

Malnutrition is a condition caused by inadequate nutrient intake and digestion, resulting from unbalanced diet, digestive disorder, and absorption problem. The condition is common among children but even adults and elderly individuals may suffer from it. Vitamin A deficiency, protein-energy malnutrition, iodine deficiency disorder and iron deficiency anemia are the common micronutrient (vitamins and minerals) deficiencies seen in children and adults.

To prevent this problem, consumption of micronutrient-rich food is encouraged, along with food fortification, or the addition of one or more nutrients, which is absent or present in small amounts to a food. Medical supplemen-

tation is also vital to decrease the incidence of micronutrient deficiency.

Bucilizine with iron (available as Propan with Iron) is one of the more effective supplements to help against micronutrient malnutrition. Iron plays an essential role in respiration and is considered as the "backbone of the energy producing process." It also contains vitamin B-complex including thiamine (Vitamin B1) and niacin. These vitamins aid in carbohydrate metabolism and prevent pellagra (skin affection characterized by redness, scaling and shedding with gastrointestinal disturbance) respectively. It helps maintain appetite and normal intestinal function.

Furthermore, vitamin B6 group (pyridoxine, pyridoxal and pyridoxamine) combines with phosphorus for fatty acid, glucose and amino acid metabolism. Vitamin B6 deficiency can

cause central nervous system disturbances. While vitamin B12 and closely related cobalamins function as protein synthesizer. Inadequacy of vitamin B12 causes nervous system degeneration, amenorrhea (irregular menstrual cycle) and pernicious anemia.

Bucilizine with Iron is one of the most frequently prescribed medications for micronutrient deficiencies. It has been shown to help in proper respiration and blood oxygenation. It contains buclizine, a known appetite builder, also enhances the appetite of elderly individuals, convalescent patients, and those with tuberculosis.

Propan with Iron is distributed by Pascual Laboratories Inc.

For more information on the benefits of buclizine, call the propan hotline at 426-5639 or e-mail multilin@pascual-lab.com from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

Up-to-date services from Ellen's Aesthetic Center

BEAUTY is skin deep. But to be able to achieve long and lasting beauty, it has to be supported with utmost care. Pampering one's self is not an easy task, but if you have the drive to do it, you can easily achieve it. Maintaining one's healthy skin can be very taxing sometimes. You need to be patient and cool, with the pricey amount that goes with the package. Indeed, the price of being beautiful can really be very hurtful on the pocket.

Not with Ellen's Skin Care and Aesthetic Center. The customer's skin and well-being are its primary concern over the fee. A lot of Ellen's customers can attest to the fact that it has one of the most affordable payment schemes in the market. And its surgical and non-surgical services are at par with the most expensive and the

so-called "leaders" in this field.

Ellen's has been known for permanent cosmetics (lipstick, eyebrow and eyeliner). It now offers more up-to-date services such as body whitening treatments, whitening scrub (a special formula of AHA and lactic acid scrub to help skin achieve a clearer complexion), whitening scrub with whitening mask (a plant extract associated with vitamin C to regulate the production of melanin while reducing tyrosinase to complete the whitening process of the skin), and underarm whitening scrub (that exfoliates the dead skin). Also available in the Center are diamond peel and laser hair removal.

Its Miracle Whitening Cream is the bestseller among Ellen's top-of-the-line products, especially for those who have problems in the hid-

den dark spots of the body (groin, nape, elbows and underarms). It can do wonders in just one week. The Miracle Whitening Lotion is also available in maintaining the skin's flawless complexion. Soon, the Miracle Whitening Scrub Soap will be available.

Meanwhile, for surgical services, Ellen's liposuction still tops the list followed by the nose lift, breast augmentation and the new chin reduction. Certified plastic surgeons trained abroad will handle all operational procedures in the Center.

For more questions and free consultations, call Ellen's hotline at 374-6665.



out of 6,967 examinees with a grade of 86.57 percent where only 20.08 percent passed. Five years ago, Bro. Rafe Donato, former president of the school, invited Hernando M. Vitas, chair of the board of trustees of Vitas Foundation, to sponsor several of its scholars and join the Foundation for Sharing La Sallian Education. Vitas readily accepted it with the end in view of producing another Sen. Jose W. Diokno from Balangas in this millennium. Incidentally, Ka Pepe Diokno graduated Summa Cum Laude at La Salle-Taft and topped the CPA Board Exams.

HALLOWEEN MIDNIGHT SPECIALS!

All **SM** Supermalls

will be open until 12 midnight
on October 29, 2004.

SM City Lucena Halloween Special

Oct. 29-30 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Oct. 31- Nov. 1 10 a.m. to 12 midnight

Product FILES

Sounds galore!

YOU NOW get more value for your money, at the same time enjoying a whole new approach to your singing pleasure. In-A-Jiffy Enterprises (IAJE), exclusive distributor

of WOW! Magic Sing Premium, the number one selling videoke microphone in the country, has taken home entertainment a step further with the introduction of a new



member of its family, the Neckphone.

The Neckphone is a lightweight and trendy set that clips over your ears and swing around the back of your head. The sound quality is above average for neckphones. The highs are strong and clear with plenty of presence. The bass is much stronger and deeper and the heavy lows are big and smooth. The device is so user friendly that it simply connects directly to the microphone. In addition, the device is the perfect partner with the microphone's record and play feature, which gives you a recording studio effect.

The Neckphone comes free with every purchase of a WOW! Magic Premium videoke microphone.

PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

Is the Internet working at work?

By Janice Gotamco and Gina Hechanova, Ateneo CORD. Contributors

INTERNET-CONNECTIVITY has already become the standard in any work setting. Chances are if you're not connected to the Net, you'll be left behind. Internet technology can enhance the productivity and growth of businesses. Companies and organizations use the Internet to get connected to people and information anytime, anywhere. Employees are able to access global information at the click of a button. Letters, deals and contracts are sent via e-mail and can reach you within seconds. This allows employees and organizations to become more efficient and productive.

However, just like information placed in the hands of a misguided person, unlimited, unrestricted and unsupervised Internet access can be misused and abused by employees. As the Internet age has altered the way we conduct business, it has also changed work activities and practices in the organization. Although the Internet can help employees accomplish more, organizations today are having a more difficult time directing and monitoring employee productivity and behavior because more and more work activities are becoming virtual and are, therefore, harder to observe, control and trace. As such, People at Work Pulse wanted to find out, how exactly is the Internet used in the workplace.

Survey results

People at Work Pulse conducted a survey to see what activities were done in the Internet while at work. Out of the 150 respondents who participated, 92 percent said that they had Internet access at work while only a minimal 8 percent said they had none. These respondents were composed of 36 percent males and 64 percent fe-

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

males. The average age of the respondents was 32 years old, ranging from 21 to 75 years of age. Employed in various organizations such as insurance firms, call centers, banks, government agencies, consulting firms, schools, manufacturing, electronics and multinational companies, these respondents occupy and work in different levels and departments in their organizations.

At an average, these respondents used the Internet for 3.56 hours per day. They utilized 76 percent of their Internet time for work-related activities and 24 percent for non-work related activities. These non-work related activities included personal instant messaging (35 percent) such as Yahoo! Messenger, ICQ, and MSN messenger; listening to the radio or music via the Internet (19 percent); downloading music, movies and software (13 percent); playing Internet computer games (9 percent); and others, such as checking personal e-mail, reading the news, completing banking transactions, researching, and blogging.

Common websites visited by employees that were non-work related included personal e-mail accounts (72 percent), news (44 percent), entertainment (30 percent), chat rooms, message boards, Friendster (25 percent), sites for downloading free software or music (19 percent), sports (15 percent), shopping (9 percent), and pornography (7 percent). Other sites mentioned by the respondents were banking, educational, and graphics or picture sites, hobby sites, their personal websites, blogs, online advertisements,

Google, and Jobstreet.

Downtime

While Internet at work has mostly been put to good use—updating clients on their accounts, researching on market information, sending business e-mails, communicating with partners locally or abroad, buying and selling through the company website—it has also been the cause of downtime at work. Downtime is used to refer to time lost by the organization when an employee engages in activities not directed towards his or her job and overall company productivity as opposed to activities that could have benefited the company. Simply put, downtime means the organization did not get what it had supposedly paid for. From the survey results, on average, downtime is a little less than one hour per day (51 minutes to be exact) as employees spend 24 percent of their Internet time at work doing non-work related activities. This amounts to a little less than five to six hours per week. The implication: three-fourths of one day a week is wasted due to downtime.

Policies and privileges

Companies have taken steps to address these issues by providing Internet usage policies. Having policies for Internet use is helpful for both management and employees to clarify the do's

and don'ts, acceptable and unacceptable practices on Internet use at work. According to the survey, 70 percent of companies have Internet policies in place. Most companies employ and implement a right to access e-mails, documents, and any other transactions done through the company computers. Although this may be seen as a violation of one's privacy, companies have the right to monitor and control the resources and technology they provide employees. Fortunately, 82 percent of the respondents agree with this condition. And while some companies extend the privilege for employees to use the Internet for personal purposes, it is good practice for management to clarify, communicate and publish rules, monitor Internet usage, and correct inappropriate Internet practices and behaviors. On the part of employees, it is fair behavior to respect company resources and contribute to overall productivity, and business health by using Internet at work for its intended purpose.

(Gotamco is a graduate student of M.A. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology program of the Ateneo de Manila. Hechanova is a faculty member and director for Research and Organizational Development of Ateneo CORD. Send feedback to this article to ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.)



Current views on labor unions

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse



PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

Is your pulse rate a bit too fast due to stress? Is it slowing down due to asphyxiation from traffic fumes? Or is it just beating happily to the rhythm of life? Your thoughts, feelings and beliefs on various workplace issues close to your hearts, when shared, can contribute to transforming our places into more human-friendly places to work in.

This "pulse" will be conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be pub-

lished the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

Winners from respondents of last month's survey are Mife- lin Ann Garcia and Flor Estrella (please contact The Philippine Daily Inquirer at 897-8808 local 554 to claim your prizes).

1. Does your company have a union?

Yes No

2. Are you a union member?

Yes No

3. What do you think of the objectives of unions?

4. How relevant are unions to you?

(1 - very irrelevant to 5 - very relevant)

5. (Skip question if answer to question 1 is No) What is the relationship of your company to its union?

a. Supportive

b. Neutral

c. Adversarial

6. (Skip question if answer to question 1 is No) How do employees in your company perceive their union?

a. pro-management

b. pro-employees

c. takes balanced view between management and employees

7. Given a choice, would you like to be a member of the union?

Yes No

8. In your opinion, are unions beneficial to employees?

Yes No

Name: _____

Gender: _____ Age: _____ Civil Status: _____

Nature of job: _____

Company Name: _____

Industry: _____

Tel/Mobile/E-mail: _____

Mail or fax this form or email-text your answers to: People at Work Pulse, Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development, 2/F Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Fax forms to 426-6065, e-mail ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or text answers to 0920-8319522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc: name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or e-mail.

'I want to work in human resources'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM an avid reader of People at Work. I usually cut the articles and highlight important points in career planning and self-development. I graduated last March from an exclusive school. Being the pride of the class and with very good academic standing, I never thought finding a job would be hard for me. It took me 150 resumes distributed to different companies to get a job.

Due to the country's economic problems, I am compelled to accept the job as a credit acquisition staff in an international bank on a project basis. Truthfully, I became depressed because I wasn't able to get the job I really want which is in human resources. I dream to be a training executive someday because I love facilitating activities and communicating with people. I have gone to a lot of interviews but, unfortunately, I am not accepted because of tight competition in HR. I carefully scanned my resume and I think I have given enough information. Does determination to get the job give a negative impression to the interviewer?

My contract will end this November and I don't know what to do. I am a self-supporting individual and my parents are in the province. Of course, it will be lonely being jobless this coming Christmas. I wish to be employed in an advertising or a multinational company (particularly in the manufacturing in-

dustry) because of more training opportunities, structured organization and the chance to hone my skills.

I always dream to be an efficient and multi-skilled individual. But how can I be motivated in my job if it is not what my heart truly desires? Should I wait for a couple of months longer for a good job offer? I want to feel the energy and excitement of coming to the office everyday.

I would like to attend seminars and pursue a master's degree but for now I don't have the money and my parents can't afford it. Success for me is not money or power but being happy in a job that will satisfy and complete me. Please help me. Sometimes while at work I secretly cry at my desk because I imagine working in a job which I truly desire that is in human resources.

May God bless you more!

Please reply when you receive this. More power!

HR Passionate

I can empathize with your desire to work in the field of human resources. However, at this point in your career you have little experience. You have to be patient with yourself. Make the most out of your present job.

Then, persevere in sending out your resumes to the companies where you want to work when your contract ends in November. Don't wait, be proactive.

Reading your letter, I may have some clues why you have difficulty landing a job. You may have graduated with good academic standing but I am sorry to say that your written communication skills need improvement. I noticed that the letter you sent me was studded with spelling, typographical and grammatical errors. I spent some time editing it for publication. May I suggest you ask a friend with a mastery of the English language to go over your resume and review for possible spelling and grammatical errors. Then again, you may have to practice oral English and get ready for interviews.

You failed to mention in your letter the college course you completed. Is it related to human resource management or development? Human resource management has a body of knowledge behind it. You may have to acquire the competencies required of a human resource practitioner.

Then, you may want to ask yourself, what are your motivations for wanting to go into human resources? You mentioned training and facilitating courses. This specialization would require proficient use of English. You may need to get remedial English lessons to give you a fighting chance to land a job.

Based on my knowledge of the



WANT/B13

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO



How do you find the right CEO coach?

DEAR WW: I've decided that I should hire a CEO coach. How do I find the best coach for me and how can I get the most out of him or her?

Win One For The Gipper

When you go to hire your CEO coach, don't do what Basant and Anita Jain have done. The Jains are a husband and wife team who own a bookstore in India, and for the last 14 years they've worn only matching outfits—her sari always matching his pants and shirt.

The "twin thing" works great for the Jains. But that kind of clone approach will lead to failure with a business coach. You want someone who can help you get a new perspective on yourself and your challenges—not someone who looks and thinks the same way you do. So interview prospective coaches using the questions below. For more, check out D.A. Benton's "Secrets of a CEO Coach" (McGraw Hill, 1999).

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

helped clients solve those problems?

What mistakes will you help me avoid? Ask what challenges the coach foresees in your future. How will she help you handle them?

Who will actually work with me? If you're contracting with a large training firm, you may spend more time with lower level people than you do with your coach. Be sure you meet all the people you'd be working with, and are comfortable with both their styles and their credentials.

How do you charge for your services? According to Ms. Benton, coaches generally charge between \$2,500 and \$10,000 for a program. Ask if they have a money back guarantee. Some actually do!

Do you have a track record of helping clients accomplish their

HOW DO/B13

Company that develops its people as leaders bags award

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

FOR PFIZER, developing their employees into leaders could translate to healthier, longer and happier lives for Filipinos. It is with this thrust that the 50-year-old pharmaceutical company bagged the Employer of the Year Award for 2004. Pfizer is a global, research-based health care company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets innovative medicines for humans and animals, and many of the world's best-known consumer products like Visine, Listerine and Terramycin.

This year, Pfizer received one of the most sought after awards in the country from the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. "We, in Pfizer, are deeply honored to have been given this outstanding distinction. It motivates us to pursue with even more intensity our commitment to be a premier employer and most importantly, to make a difference in the communities where we work and live," says Rey Gerardo Bacarro, Pfizer president and country manager. The Employer of the Year award is a fitting gift as the company celebrated its 50th year in the business. Pfizer was given the award to honor it for its exceptional accomplishments especially in the area of human resources.

Well-rounded

"I think they picked us as employer of the year because we are a well-rounded company," says Marian Lleander, human resources director of Pfizer Philippines. The Employer of the Year award was given to Pfizer for its outstanding management of its most important asset, its people. This was demonstrated by the company's leadership, strategic human resource planning, human resource focus, process management and business results.

The company was applauded for its many HR initiatives, which consist of company-wide training and mentoring programs and a total compensation package that includes a pioneering flexible

ALL ABOUT WORK



benefits program that makes way for growth and development. The management of Pfizer believes that it is not enough that the employees of Pfizer are happy and content. Pfizer also strives to develop their people into movers and leaders. The company has a leadership team that works to draw out excellence from the employees. By achieving this, Pfizer hopes to develop people with a passion to make the lives of Filipinos healthier, longer and happier.

Employee development

Pfizer measures its success not in profits alone. They measure it based on how they can create benefits for their own people and ultimately for the Filipinos. For the company, developing their employees means training them to be leaders. "We take our responsibilities for leadership very seriously. We want our people to be developed as leaders," says Lleander. The company operates on the belief that by bringing up the skill level of their employees, they are able to influence the industry to rise up to their greatest potential. And by achieving this, Pfizer believes that they can become the leaders in the business.

Part of Pfizer's development programs include a business leadership program with the Asian Institute of Management to involve managers to identify areas in the company that could use improvement. The program is an interactive practical course that encourages the managers to practice what they learned.

"There's also a lot in it for the company because we have identified a lot of projects that have enabled us to raise the bar not just in our organization but also in the community," Lleander adds.

Providing opportunities

An innovative company, Pfizer has designed and experimented



PFIZER human resources team members pursuing excellence through intensive commitment: seated (L-R), Mara Barreto, Cuckoo Benipayo, Marian Lleander and Char Bolido; standing (L-R): Aileen Inocencio, Mawee Rodriguez-Maglunog, Eden Sagisi, Con Vicedo-Barcalo, Leima Sevilla and Aiye Restua

on several unconventional programs and incentives for their greatest assets. "We've been very much a risk taker because we've initiated some activities that normally people wouldn't think of doing," claims Lleander. Part of their unconventional programs includes training their Professional Health Care Representatives (PHRs) of medical representatives in sales management or marketing under Ateneo de Manila's Leadership and Management Development Program. The program is normally given to top managers only but Pfizer wants to open this opportunity to their PHRs. "We want to give them a broader perspective to make them step up to the plate in terms of leadership. Through projects like this, we are able to make them better potential leaders."

Another experimentation by Pfizer is the program that takes non-sales people in as PHRs. "We think it's an investment on their part as well as ours because they are put in the field and they are treated like any other reps in other professional health care companies," says Lleander. By allowing them direct interaction with the customers, the non-sales people can bring a different perspective in their job. But according to Lleander, this is just a side effect. The program's primary goal is to allow the employees to develop in the field that they want to be in. "A lot of times when they apply for a marketing position they're not taken in because they don't have any sales experience and they lose out and it doesn't make for happy employees if they don't feel like they have opportunities."

HR's role

Pfizer credits its innovative employee programs and initiatives to its HR team. Human Resources plays an important role in bringing the company to its place of excellence in terms of leadership, dynamism and professionalism. The head of HR thinks this is because HR is always a part of strategic planning and decision-making in the company. "HR becomes everyone's job. It's not just my job or my HR team's job. It becomes a part of everybody's job because we all do things through people," says Lleander.

Lleander believes that the programs and goals that they have set for themselves can only reach fruition if they can expect commitment from their own people.

With this in mind, the company hopes to make HR managers out of every manager. According to Lleander, every manager must know how to manage people and deal with issues and problems within his or her team.

Jose L. Cuisia Jr. wins CEO of the Year award

THE PHILIPPINE American Life and General Insurance Company takes pride in its President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. for winning the distinction of Chief Executive Officer of the Year in the first Raul Locsin Awards for Business Excellence.

Mr. Cuisia was among high-ranking nominees from various industries and was chosen for his leadership qualities, management skills, and invaluable achievements both in government and the private sector. His balance of work, family and spiritual life creates a plus point that made him stand out among his peers. The success of insurance giant Philamlife as one of the most trusted and most recognized names in the insurance industry is also credited to his leadership.

For these—the success of his company under his leadership, his public service as SSS administrator and Central Bank governor, his continuing effort in policy reform and advocacy, his support for the arts through the support for the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, his contribution to the community through the company foundation, for his family and spiritual life."

He also attributed the award to his colleagues and staff in the company because he believes that leading an enterprise successfully can never be attributed to just one individual. "It needs to be a collective effort of the most dynamic professionals in the business. I continue, therefore, to be blessed by such a fine team of individuals who share the same vision and values that I believe in."

In conclusion, he revealed that his goal is to emulate a successful and well-respected conductor who ensures harmony and synergy among all the different parts of the organization to be able to play beautifully together. It is because as a corporate leader, he believes that "ultimately his highest value lies in likewise drawing out his people's best talents."



Mr. Cuisia, Jr. is the President and CEO of Philamlife. He has been with the company for over 20 years and has played a significant role in its growth and success. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Insurance Association and the Board of Governors of the Central Bank. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra and the Board of Governors of the SSS.

I want to work in human resources'

From page B12

job market, there are many opportunities in the field of human resources for qualified individuals. In fact, it is a field that has gained prestige and recognition in the past decade. But don't despair. Continue to be hopeful. Take one step at a time. First,

stabilize your financial situation. Find a more permanent job that can be a step forward to your dream job. Then, with some cash, go for a remedial course in written and oral English. You can also start to buy books and read on human resources. Then, take some short courses at the Ancilla Business

Training Center. If you are interested in training, you can take a Trainers Training course.

Praying that you'll be happy and thankful in your current job as you prepare yourself for your dream job. God bless you!

By the way, our Journalism Class 1969 is organizing a get-together for the grand reunion of

the College of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas come Nov. 30 at the Manila Hotel. Please get in touch with Mia, telephone 892-2898 or 892-2896.

(Ms. Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

How do you find the right CEO coach?

From page B12

goals? Ask for at least 10 references—preferably from companies and individuals whose situations were similar to yours. Call the last three on the list. (They're apt to be less glowing than the earlier ones.) Ask what problems they worked on with the coach and

how satisfied they were with the arrangement. What were they dissatisfied with?

What is your experience as a business person? There are a number of coaches out there who come primarily from a counseling background. They can provide valuable insight, but you should also be looking for someone who

understands business too.

When it comes to wardrobe, the Jains are probably not in the market for coaching. But if you follow the tips above, your leadership skills shouldn't fall out of fashion.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABnews.com online ballot: Could

you use a coach at work?

—No, I know what I'm doing, 5.8 percent
—It depends, who's paying?, 29.4 percent

—Yes, it would be great, 64.7 percent

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

'Mommy, why did you not kiss me?'

IT IS ANOTHER harried morning for me, and my daughter knows it. Knowing she only has a few minutes to spend with me this morning, she tries to keep up with my pace, hurrying to lay out her clothes, stuffing her school bag, and rushing into the bathroom to take her shower. When the heater takes too long, she stomps her feet and is near tears. I can hardly control my irritation. I snap, "It won't make the water any hotter faster," I say.

I go downstairs for breakfast

I hardly have time to chew, and hear Simone's whining anxiety upstairs. "Stop it," I holler. "Cool it!" My taxi arrives before I have time to check on her again, and I fly out of the house, bear-hugging my boys. Simone is calling for me. But I'm very, very late for my shoot, for my meeting, for whatever is waiting for me in the office. I just have to go.

The feeling nags at me two hours later, in between appointments. I call Sim up on her cell but she doesn't answer. I figure she's in class, or in the playground. Later, she texts me, in her halting, careful English, explaining that her phone was in her bag, sorry that she couldn't answer, and why did I call? I reply, "Nothing, anak, I just wanted to say sorry for shouting this morning." Her answer has me falling back in my seat, the expression on my face changing so that my companions ask me what's wrong.

My kids won't mind if you're a couple of days late for your deadline. They will absolve you if you don't make the sales quota for the month.

I am filled with shame, guilt and the overwhelming ickiness and bewilderment that Derek Zoolander must've felt when a dozen miniature Mugatots started dancing "Relax" in his mind. It was the first time—save for the times when she was staying over at her *lola's*—that I had missed kissing my daughter goodbye. We always kiss each other hello and goodbye, and she always walks me to the gate, smacks me on the lips when I have to go.

"I'm sorry, anak," I reply, close to tears. "I'll never do it again."

The value of a child's praise

I've never discussed my working mom guilt with Simone. There's never really been an opportunity, nor a need, but I think she's very perceptive about it. She

knows that I do feel something lacking about my mothering skills sometimes, and in her limited 7-year-old understanding, has decided to help me deal with it.

I remember one time, weeks before this "why did you not kiss me" incident: I was telling an aunt how impressed I was about the Barreto sisters—Gretchen, Marjorie, and now, Claudine, with her adopted daughter—about how close they were to their kids; how I

wished I were more of a hands-on mom, how great they were as mothers. Simone, who was playing nearby, piped up: "Why mommy? You're a good mom!"

Again, she almost brought me to tears. In that one sentence, she released me from all of my perceived shortcomings as a working mom—my late nights at the office, my stress-related temper, my sometimes zonked out attention span when a story is brewing in my brain. I was her mom after all, weird or not-and she

loves me as much as I love her. No conditions.

World-class jerks forgiven

Our children can make us feel like world-class jerks, sometimes. Mainly because we are. Admit it. Here you are, thinking you're saving the world—or the future of the publishing industry—by doing your bit, bleeding for your work, impressing presidents and audiences of millions, and coming up with brilliant money-making plans, sucking up to tycoons, when actually, all the warm applause that really matters is at home.

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Harness cyber skills for effective people management

AS WE move towards an increasingly technologically-reliant workplace, there are many issues that Information Technology and human resources managers contend with. How do we harness technology for people management? How do we manage employee resistance to computers? How do we protect organizations from Internet-related crimes? All of these issues will be tackled in Cyber HR: Managing the Interface between People and Technology.

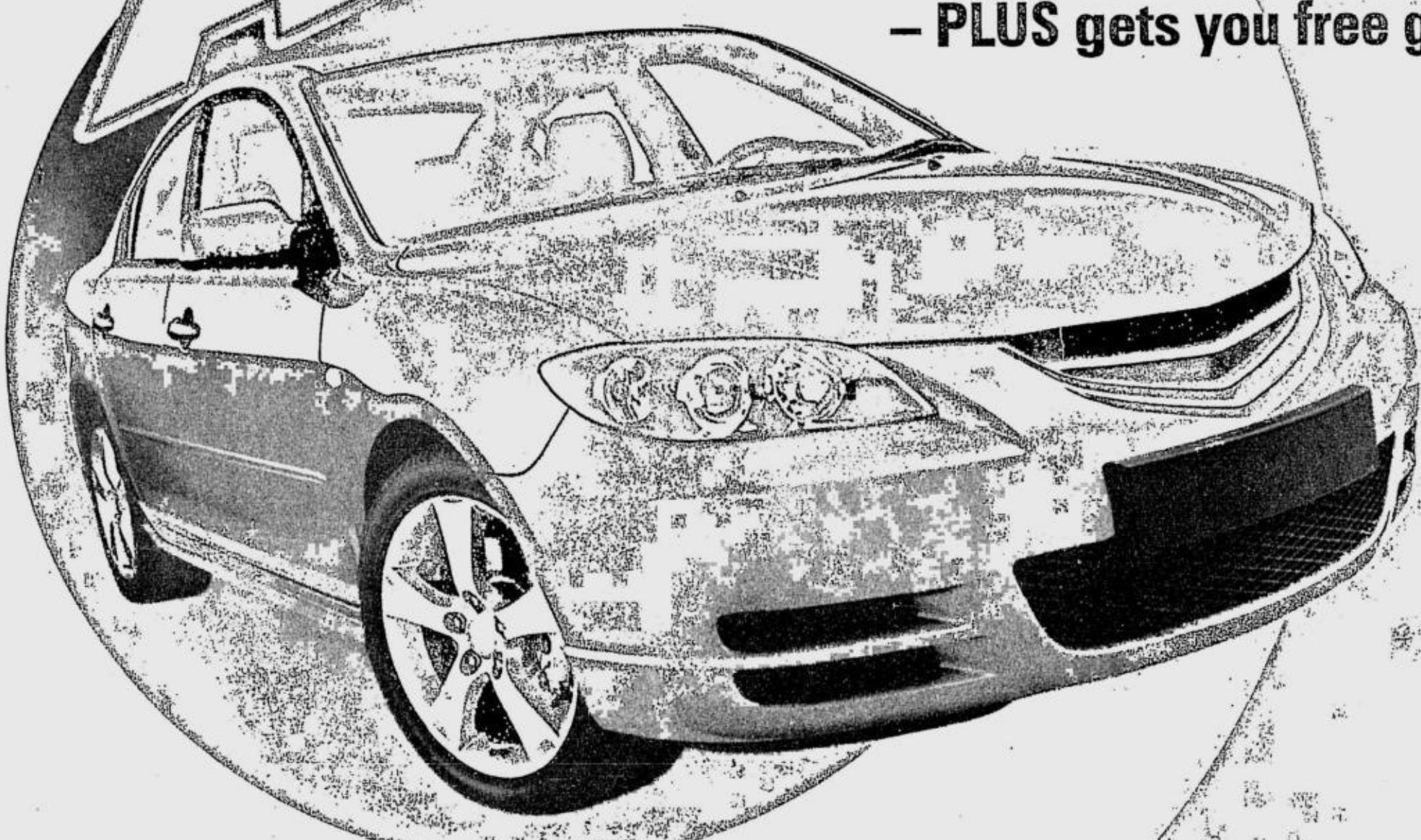
Topics to be discussed are: technologies of the future, state of managers' use of ICT, managing computer resistance, cyber-crimes and preventing employee Internet abuse. The conference will be held on Nov. 18 at the Ateneo Professional School Auditorium in Rockwell, Makati City. This is a partnership between the Ateneo Information Technology Institute, and the Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) and is endorsed by the Philippine TSC-Government Computer Security Incident Response Team.

For reservation, please visit or call the Ateneo Information Technology Institute, 130 H. V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City with phone numbers 840-0892, 893-6095 and 840-0912.

You can also contact the Ateneo CORD, 2/F Hoffner Bldg, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Rd., Loyola Heights, Quezon City with phone numbers 426-6001 loc. 5263 and 426-5931.

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Don't be left behind on the highways

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHO wants to be left behind during the holidays on the highway? Besides the obvious risk of exposing your stalled car to fast-moving traffic (we have heard horrifying reports of high-speed collisions involving reckless drivers and stalled cars on the shoulder), watching time pass by helplessly as you wait for assistance is certainly not an ideal way of spending your All Soul's or All Saint's Day vacation.

Come to think of it, any time is not a good time to stop anywhere on our highways, for even the shoulder can be a death trap.

Here's the rub: only you can prevent yourself from being stranded on the highways and exposing you and our loved ones to danger.

Reminders

Before going on any long-distance trip, there must be simple tasks to complete. And these must be performed on all vehicles, whether they may be spanking new straight from the showroom or '70s-era cars. The task is not that difficult.

• Check the basics. Know the fluid

level in the radiator, crank case, transmission, brakes, power steering and batteries, and make sure the fluid levels are all within the allowable manufacturer levels.

• Make sure your vehicle has fresh oil and filter. Examine the drive belts, the water hoses, the brake lining, the tires and correct tire pressure. Check your car's reserve tire, make sure it's also in good condition and within the correct tire pressure.

If your car is A/T, check the automatic transmission fluid.

Other safety tips

Then there are simple tasks to ensure the safety of your passengers, especially children. You don't even need to wait until the holidays to follow the following tips.

• Don't seat the child on top of an adult passenger's lap. Children below 6 years old should not be seated in the front passenger seat. It is unsafe, and it is also against the law (Republic Act 8750, or the Seatbelt Act).

But you don't have to tie your child up and stash him back in the trunk. The safest place for a child is on the seat behind the driver. Bring a child seat with you for extra young occupants.

• Examine the safety harness of the car seat and ensure that the seatbelts are securely fastened. If the car has been involved in a previous collision, have the seatbelts examined by the manufacturer



or your repair shop or service center. It is ideal for everyone to wear sturdy three-point seatbelts, and the rear passengers should not wear only lap belts.

• Remove all sharp objects in the

car. When your car runs in excess of 100 kph, so does everything in the car. A misplaced knife or can opener becomes a lethal airborne missile in sudden stops and collisions. Don't allow

children to eat barbecue.

• Ensure the car doors are shut properly and locked. It is a must to remind children not to play with the door locks (though it would be much better if your car has child locks).

• Never allow children to extend their arms or head out the window. For safety and health sake, it would also be advisable to keep your windows shut.

• Don't rush. Remember, you and your family are going on a vacation, not in a WRC tour. So rushing and speeding has no place here. Don't stretch the limits of your car now.

• Don't overload. If you think packing eight people in a five-seater car saves fuel, think again. Not only does overloading make your car's engine work harder than it can dish out, car safety is compromised.

Now, this really happens. You're driving happily along, and suddenly you're pulled over by a highway policeman because you have inadvertently committed a traffic violation. You reach for your license and, voila! It's the great license disappearing act, and you did it at the worst possible time so far away from home. Moral of the trick: make sure your license is with you, and make sure it hasn't expired. An expired license is as worthless as having no license at all. Both will see you at the local police precinct. If that happens, ask your dead to visit you instead and bail you out of the trouble you put yourself in.

A winning formula, both on the track and in it

MICHAEL Schumacher wrapped up another winning season for the Ferrari Formula One team when he secured the driver's title for the seventh time. Ferrari and Shell are well known for their Formula One partnership, but a recent project in Italy saw the two working together quite literally from the ground up.

Shell Bitumen used its latest technology to resurface Ferrari's Fiorano test track and enable the manufacturer to put its current generation of super cars and those planned for the future to the ultimate test of man, machine and track. Ferrari is expecting to set its test drivers to work immediately, analyzing cars' drivability, braking, centrifugal ef-

fects and maneuverability on the bilharz-smooth surface.

Said Shell Bitumen technical manager for Germany Martin Vondenhof: "While the cars are being pushed to the limit, the bitumen will also have to work hard. The Formula One cars will reach speeds of up to 290 kilometers per hour on the track so there is

no room for error."

The bitumen grade Shell Cariphalte was chosen for the job because it is known for striking just the right balance between the flexibility and toughness required for Formula One racing circuits. Shell Cariphalte has also been used in Formula 1 racetracks like the Sepang Race Track in

Malaysia, Bahrain, Hockenheim, Nürburgring; Motorcycle Grand Prix tracks like Losail in Qatar; and the Zhuhai International racetrack in China.

Shell Cariphalte is now available in the Philippines, used as a heavy-duty asphalt binder for airports, highways and racetracks.



BMW continues to lead the luxury car segment with record sales.

BMW sets sales records in September

THE BMW GROUP continued its successful course worldwide by delivering 118,173 BMW, Mini and Rolls-Royce cars to customers, for a 15 percent increase in sales in September.

Also this month, the BMW brand also recorded a considerable 17 percent increase in sales by delivering 98,200 automobiles—the highest number of sales in one month in the history of the company.

Sales success

BMW Philippines Corp. contributed to this substantial growth by delivering 92 cars in September, for an astounding increase of 109 percent compared to the previous mark last year. With this sales success, BMW's year-to-date sales figures are up by 22 percent, thereby main-

taining its leadership in the luxury segment in the Philippines.

"Our results confirm that BMW is on a path of steady growth," said BMW Philippines Corp. president Dr. Joerg Breuer. "We are likewise optimistic regarding our sales in the fourth quarter of this year."

Dr. Breuer explained that the success of the BMW 3 Series, which continues to be the best-selling luxury sedan in the Philippines, was complemented by the entry of new models like the recently introduced X3 Sport Activity Vehicle. In addition, sales of every model in the wide BMW product range increased as well.

Customer-oriented programs

Aside from the appeal of its products, BMW's outstanding sales performance

in the Philippines can also be attributed to the innovative customer-oriented programs it has introduced. BMW was the first to offer the 24-hour test drive, giving customers the select opportunity to experience firsthand the multiaward-winning 3 Series.

And as further confirmation of the low aftersales costs of its vehicles, BMW recently launched its Service Inclusive offer, which entitles 3 Series and 5 Series owners to comprehensive coverage of original parts and labor for scheduled and unscheduled services for 5 years or 60,000 kilometers. 3 Series owners can avail of free Service Inclusive as part of their purchase options, while 5 Series owners can register for Service Inclusive for only P30,000. Both offers are valid until the end of October.

It assesses products nominated from 12 countries for their innovation content, user benefit, quality and environmental compatibility.

Only products that meet the strict requirements receive the "Innovation Automechanika Award."

The novel, touchless, optically operat-

ed New-Generation Wheel Alignment System takes readings accurately and quickly while the car is on the car lift or just driving by.

Second award

Bosch's second awarded innovation, the Universal Lambda Sensor range accounts for more than 80 percent of the European market. It has the highest market coverage with only seven part numbers.

This is the fifth time that Bosch products will be presented with the Automechanika Innovation Award. At the last Automechanika in 2002, Bosch was winner in the product group "Autoaccessories" with the "Aerotwin" wiper system.

With expected sales of approximately 40 billion Euros in 2004, Bosch is one of Germany's largest industrial enterprises with a significant international presence.

It set up operations in the Philippines in 1995 with distribution channels and product support and service centers nationwide.



NISSAN Frontier

Analyzing the Frontier's DNA

WHILE A HUMAN body's most visible evidence of DNA is its skeleton, the Nissan Frontier's most visible evidence of its DNA can be found in its chassis.

The Frontier's chassis takes into account the collective mass of every part of the pickup and hold them together come rain, shine, pothole or speed bump without breaking down.

Designed as a closed-section ladder-type frame brace, the Frontier's DNA is made out of reinforced steel to withstand twisting during high-speed cornering, particularly at the frontmost and rear part of the frame.

The most obvious advantage of the Frontier's backbone material is its density. The thickness of the chassis' brace prevents the Frontier from bottoming out, or the tendency of a vehicle's middle portion to come in contact with the road, at speeds over

60 kilometers per hour.

Adding to the frame's strength are individually tuned rubber-chassis mounts placed throughout the brace, virtually eliminating road harshness at all chassis mounting points.

Also, the Frontier's skeleton carries five crossmembers. Traditionally, most pickups have four crossmembers that straddle both longitudinal beams.

But with the Frontier, Nissan decided that an additional crossmember would be better for weight distribution, putting less stress on the frame due to the unsprung weight.

This part defines what a real pickup should be, the one part that can take the most abuse and ask for more without breaking or even bending. Given the Frontier's DNA, it is no wonder that it is the country's best-selling pickup truck for four years in a row.

TECHNICAL perfection, quality standards and pioneering impact have made Mercedes-Benz one of the world's most innovative car brands for over a hundred years. Countless car legends have made the three-pronged star become the most famous symbol of any car brand, denoting status and achievement.

In the continuing effort to be part of upscale lifestyles, the German car company has embarked on yet another novel feat—combining the worlds of automobiles and fashion. For some years now, Mercedes-Benz has been the title sponsor for the most famous fashion weeks in New York, San Francisco, Aus-

tralia and Singapore.

Patron of designers

Sharing the passion for design and timeless elegance, Mercedes-Benz has been a patron of established and aspiring designers, offering them a classy forum to showcase the latest trends. The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week has become one of the most anticipated events on the international vogue scene.

The exciting interplay between made-in-Germany cars and fashions—Escada, Escada Sport, Betty Barclay, Laurel and Puma—was recently highlighted in the Philippines in the show billed "Awesome."

Living up to a reputation for ingenuity

and innovativeness, the Benz state-of-the-art showroom together with the industrial backdrop of the workshop at the Bonifacio Global City was turned into the staging area for the fashion ramp.

Organizers of the event said the unique backdrop was just one of the show's many surprises. The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Show formed part of the kaleidoscope of events lined up for the "Germany ... it's more than you think!" celebration. Organized by Fairs and More in cooperation with the German Embassy and ABS-CBN, Studio 23, ANC, Cinemate One, Lifestyle Network and MYX, October has been declared German Month.



A BIRD'S eye view of the new NLEX

The P18-B expressway

IF YOU are driving north of Metro Manila this long holiday weekend, savor the low toll rates of the totally improved North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) while you can. When the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), a Lopez Group joint venture, takes over the NLEX on Nov. 30, the toll rates will jump by as much as 600 percent per kilometer for light vehicles.

Expect transportation operators and private motorists to protest when the MNTC starts charging P2.49 per kilometer for Class 1 vehicles (cars, jeepneys, pickups and minivans), P6.23 per km for Class 2 (buses, vans and two-axle trucks) and P7.47 per km for Class 3 (cargo trucks and trailers with three or more axles.) For motorists traversing the entire 80-km stretch, that means shelling out almost P200 per trip.

Although MNTC says that the majority of NLEX users will pay only P75 per trip based on the average traveled distance of 35 kilometers, the fact remains that those exiting at Angeles, a frequented destination, will have to pay P145 per trip. MNTC president and CEO Jose "Ping" de Jesus points out that only 7 percent of NLEX motorists who travel up to the last exit (Sta. Ines, Pampanga) will pay the maximum P200 per trip.

In exchange
Naturally, motorists want to know what they will get in exchange for their money. Forget all that stuff about accelerated economic development and increased tourism in Central and North Luzon since motorists in general are a self-centered lot. But promise them safer and more comfortable motoring, reduced vehicle operating costs and less time on the road because of smoother traffic flow, and they will agree to a higher toll rate.

The MNTC is spending P18 billion to transform the decrepit, 30-year-old, 84-km NLEX from Balintawak, Metro Manila to Sta. Ines into a world-class, state-of-the-art tollway. Is the first phase of its concession to rebuild, operate and maintain the NLEX for the next 30 years, MNTC resurfaced the entire stretch, built an additional 138 lane kilometers and expanded the road by adding new lanes.

The MNTC demolished the existing 91 toll booths and replaced them with 145 new ones, built and expanded four toll plazas (Balintawak, Bocaue, Dau and Tabang), erected four new interchanges (Marilao, Mexico, Angeles and Dau), widened 26 permanent exits and constructed a new flyover in Novaliches to speed up access to the tollway.

Computerized

As a world-class tollway, the new NLEX is equipped with computerized toll collection systems, variable pictogram signs, closed circuit TV monitoring, reflectorized lane markings, median concrete barriers to prevent head-on collisions, emergency parking areas, radio broadcast for expressway users, roadway lighting and portable weighing scales. All the toll plazas are connected by underground fiber optic cable to the Operation and Maintenance Center in Balintawak that houses the Traffic Control Room.

Talk about safer motoring: The improved road pavement and more efficient traffic management should significantly reduce road accidents. Aside from traffic enforcers equipped with cameras, radios and speed monitoring devices patrolling the NLEX day and night, 14 strategically positioned cameras enable MNTC staff in the control room to monitor traffic 24/7 and to dispatch emergency response teams (tow trucks, ambulances or even a helicopter) when the need arises. Motorists can also go to any of the emergency phone boxes located every one kilometer from Balintawak to Burol, Bulacan.

Talk about comfortable motoring: The resurfacing of the entire 84-km stretch and the construction of new lanes have resulted in a smooth, seamless, pothole-free and wider expressway. Instead of the bone-jarring ride that motorists used to endure, traversing the NLEX is now such a soothing experience that you tend to take a nap if you are a passenger and wake up later at your destination rested and refreshed.

Reduced VOC

Talk about reduced vehicle operating costs (VOC): A study done by the University of the Philippines Planning and Development Research Foundation indicated that running costs including fuel consumption are reduced because of the smooth pavement and faster traffic flow on the new NLEX. Thus the depreciation of the vehicle and the effects of wear and tear are also lessened.

The UP study showed that Class 1 vehicles can expect VOC savings of P0.94 per km or P75.20 if you travel the entire 80-km distance. A Class 2 vehicle saves P7.44 per km in VOC on the renovated NLEX, or a whopping P595.20 if it travels from end to end. Similarly, Class 3 vehicles would save P5.04 per km in VOC, or a total of P401.60. Bottom line, the VOC savings will outweigh the higher toll rates, Ping de Jesus claims.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla Mendoza

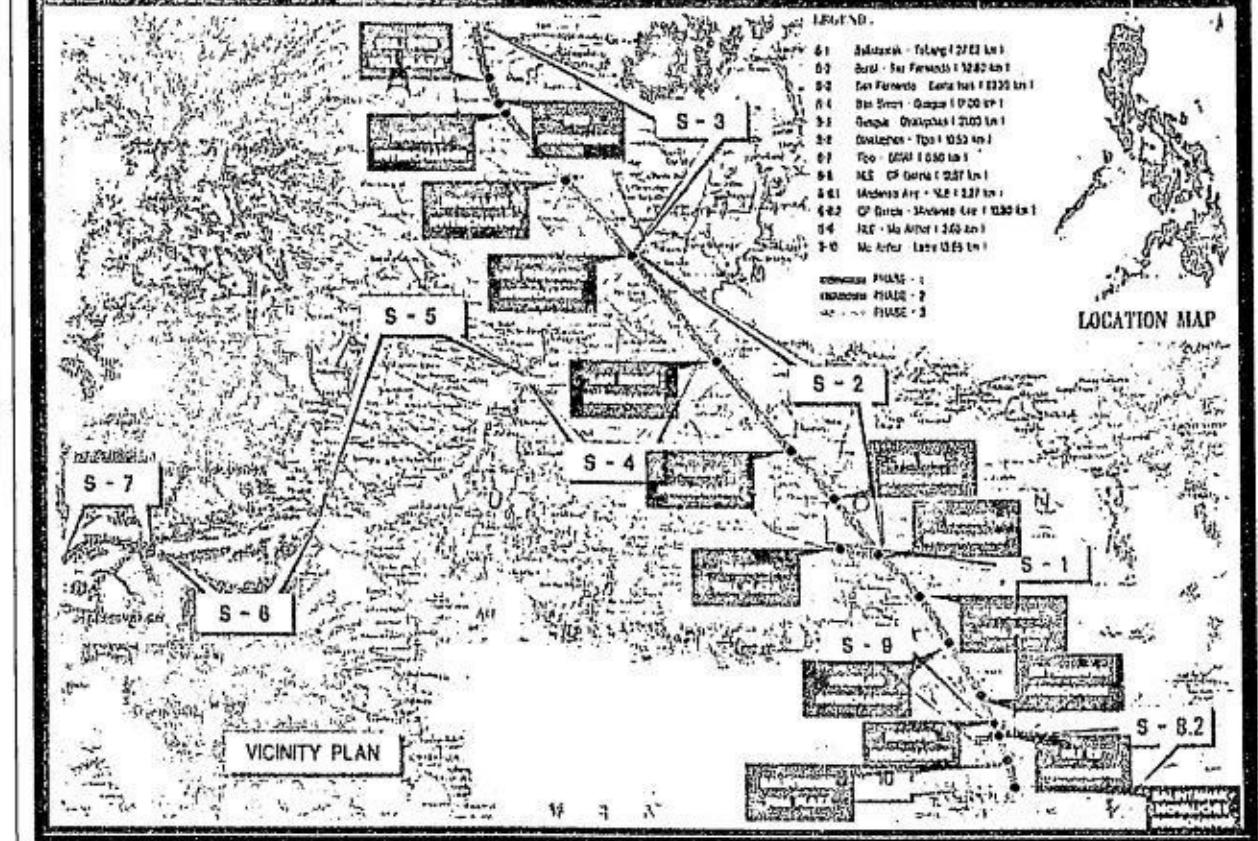


Talk about reduced travel time: De Jesus asserts that the improvement and expansion of the NLEX cuts travel time for the whole 84-km stretch to one hour from the previous minimum two hours. With improved traffic conditions, average speed will increase to 80 km/hr from the 60 km/hr of old.

The MNTC needs the Toll Regulatory Board's approval to collect the toll rates it needs to cover operating and maintenance costs, get a fair return on its P18-billion investment and repay the loans it incurred to finance the modernization of the NLEX. Now, don't you think that the new toll rates are justified?

TOYOTA ENTERS COTYP After fielding the Altis in the first testfest for the Car of the Year Award, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. will pro-

NORTH LUZON TOLLWAYS PROJECT



vide test units of the Camry, Previa and RAV4 in subsequent testfests. It also promised full participation in next year's Cotyp (Car of the Year Philippines) when it shall have more time to prepare a wider range of models. In last weekend's testfest with subcompact cars and minivans, the 1100 cc Kia Picanto attracted attention because it was the newest model there. The

Car Awards Group takes a break this weekend to observe All Souls' Day.

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: The main cause of divorce is marriage.

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

THE NLEX road map
showing new toll plazas and interchanges



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Product on promo: Mazda Tribute 3.0L 4X2 AT. Coverage is GMA only. Promo period: Oct. 3-31, 2004. 20% down payment on SRP of P1,180,000.00 will give buyers 2 monthly payments free on 36-48 months installment plans.

Available on Mazda Credit financing only.



For more information please contact our dealers: Mazda Alabang Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Tel 772-3168, Fax 772-3170 • Mazda Greenhills 202 EDSA cor. Roxas St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City, Tel 722-1102, Fax 722-1138 • Mazda Quezon Avenue 721 Quezon Avenue, Sto. Domingo, Q. C., Tel 712-3355, Fax 742-2080

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2311, Series of 2004.

**R.P. HAS CAR OF THE YEAR**

Seventeen of the 46 motoring writers and other motoring-related media personalities comprising the Car of the Year-Philippines (Coty-Philippines) in a recent oath taking with Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza. Now on its third of the six weekend testing and evaluating of vehicles via instrumented and subjective evaluation of the 2004 vehicle models in the country, Coty-

Philippines hopes to improve the skills of motoring journalists in the country, set new benchmarks for the domestic auto industry in terms of design, innovation, safety and handling. With full backing of the Automobile Association of the Philippines, it will announce the Car of the Year 2004 at a glittering awards ceremony in February 2005. Finally, the Philippines has Car of the Year.

What excites you?



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Automotive personnel shine in Auto Review safety run

AS IF racing for the best time was as important to them as leading sales charts, employees of car manufacturing, oil and other automotive-related companies took their fastest strides to the finish line in the 1st Auto Review 10K Run for Road Safety and Courtesy held last Sunday at the CCP Complex in front of Star City.

Toyota, Ford, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Mazda, Asahi Glass and Total shone the brightest as they emerged among the top 10 finishers in the men and women categories of the 5K Sponsors Run with the participation of other companies. These are Caltex, Acel Sports Gear, Chevrolet, Honda Cars Phils., Nissan, Universal Motors Corp., Volvo, Red Bull, Carryboy, Manila Broadcasting Co., Manila Bulletin, Today and NBN4.

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) garnered a special award for the biggest automotive delegation.

Top 10

Toyota's Joel Alberto (22:58), Al Amoranto (22:59), Reynan Ilorca (23:55) and Raymond Gosh (24:01) registered a strong 1-2-3-4 finishing kick in the men's class with Noel Cerdeña of Asahi Glass Philippines checking in with 25:04 for fifth place while Mazda's Joel Muyuga occupied sixth place in 25:10.

Rounding up the rest of the top 10 list in the 5K Sponsors Run are: 7th and 8th placers—Toyota's Greg Falcon (25:35) and Mark Marcelo (26:21); 9th—Ford's John Vital (26:41) and 10th Toyota's Jimmy Hembra (27:19).

The women's side saw Areza Abundio completing a double by Toyota with her 23:11 for first place. Ford's Shyrell Ferre, the company's first lady forklift operator, finished second with a time of 30:37. Mitsubishi's Rose de la Cruz was third in 35:20.

Completing the ladies' top 10 5K Sponsors cast are: 4th—Total's Mariz Dominguez (37:17); 5th—Toyota's Vanessa de los Santos (39:00); 6th—Ford's Marilen Morales (43:33); 7th and 8th—Mazda's Cherylynn Bulalong (43:34) and Haydee Malate (43:35); 9th and 10th—Isuzu's Lea Punongbayan (45:21) and Timmy Naval (45:27).

The main 10K-distance run is endorsed by the Department of Education, the Metro Manila Development Authority, Philippine Sports Commission, Automobile Association Philippines, Car Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Society of Philippine Motoring Journalists, Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, Adz on Wheels and supported by dzSR Sports Radio, K-Lite 103.5, dzRH, Love Radio 90.7, Yes! FM and Blazin' 105.9 FM.

Other winners

Former national team mainstay Bernardo Desamito Jr. and Cristabel Martes, 2001 Southeast Asian Games marathon champion in Malaysia, copped first place with their 31:18 and 36:44 clockings, respectively.

Meantime, Rolando Piamonte (15:48) and Hazel Madamba (18:47) were proclaimed the fastest runners in the 5K Open while Richard Delfin (15:59) and Mary Grace Cruz (16:16), both 12-years old, captured the top spots in the 3K race.

Asahi glass trophies were awarded to all the top 10 finishers of the 4 race categories with additional cash prizes given to the top three placers. The 10K male and female champions also received a Carryboy mountain bike each.

Special guest

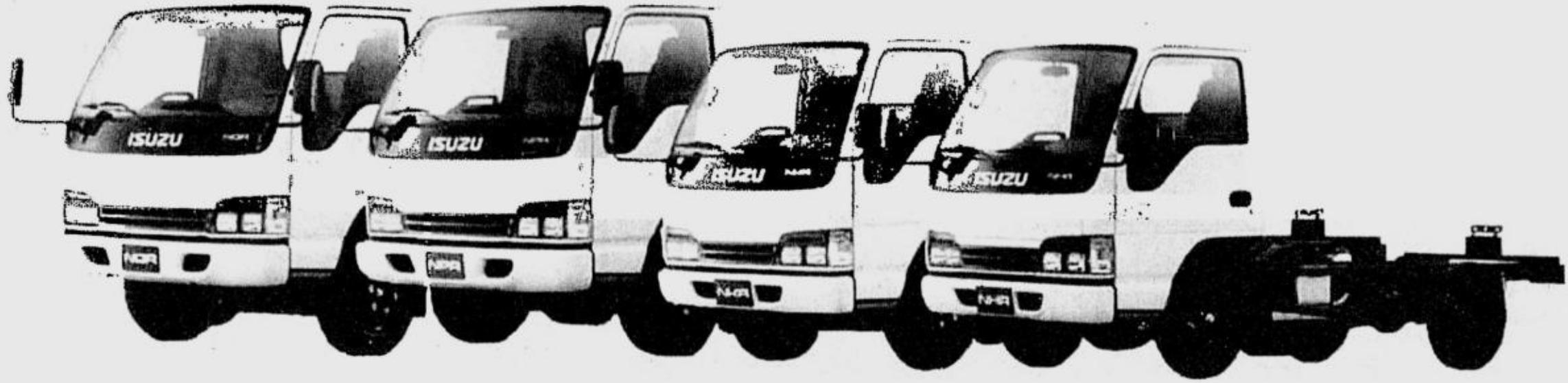
No less than World Health Organization representative to the Philippines Dr. Jean Marc Olive was the special guest during the awarding ceremonies. In his brief address, Dr. Olive congratulated the advocacy effort undertaken by Auto Review to promote road safety and the value of courtesy among the motoring public. He cited the Philippines as ranked seventh in the top 10 list of ASEAN countries that register the highest mortality rate due to road accidents.

"The Philippines needs more programs that advocate road safety for mass awareness. And this Auto Review Run is one such effort," said Dr. Olive who spearheaded World Health Day activities that adopted the slogan "Road Safety is No Accident" last April.

Side events

Sunday's run also highlighted other side events such as the well-received "Pera O Gasolina" road safety quiz sponsored by Total (Phil) Corp. and raffle of premium items from event sponsors, a road safety slogan-writing contest, and a car display on the latest models—Isuzu D-Max, Ford Lynx, Nissan Frontier—and the Red Bull Honda Civic converted sports racing car driven by multi-titled racer Mike Anton at the Subic International Raceway.

The staging of the advocacy run marked Auto Review's 10th year of service to the motoring public through the one-hour show hosted by veteran sportscaster and motoring journalist Ron de los Reyes and aired every Saturday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. over the National Broadcasting Network.



ISUZU N-SERIES

Five in a row for Isuzu; Tarlac's tricycles

MY warm applause to Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC), the country's logistics specialist, for maintaining its dominance in the local truck sales for an amazing five consecutive years.

Take a bow, Art Balmadrid, Myrna Gonzales and Timmy Naval.

Year-to-date figures released by the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TMA) showed Isuzu's light-trucks, the N-Series line or popularly known as the Elf, too tough a contender to beat for the No. 1 spot. The Elf topped the charts with a record of 514 units against the total industry light-truck sales of 846. That's a whopping 61 percent market share.

The N-Series trucks are known as tough, reliable and versatile logistics partner—a must for every start-up or expanding business. In addition, they have what it takes for a world-class performance. Owners can count on the N-Series, which is Euro 1 compliant resulting to clean-burning power, plus elegant styling and superb driving comfort. Low emission and fuel-efficient engines add versatility to these workhorses.

As Art Balmadrid loves to say, "And because it is powered by Isuzu's legendary diesel engine, no businessman

can ever go wrong by choosing it as a long-term business partner."

Not to be outdone, Isuzu's F-Series, commonly known as the Isuzu Forward, remained a consistent top seller with a year-to-date 76 percent share of the total industry medium-truck sales.

Incidentally, Isuzu Motors Ltd. (IML) announced that for three consecutive years, Isuzu dominated all other manufacturers in the output of 6.1-16 ton medium-duty trucks within a single country—producing 65,468 vehicles in Japan and surpassing the nearest runner-up by more than 23,000 units.

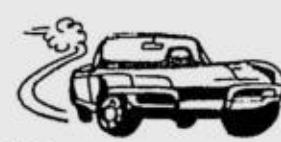
Also, IML manufactured 86,354 trucks with gross vehicle masses (GVMs) of at least 6.1 tons (14,000 lb) in 2003, making the company the world's No. 1 producer of medium and heavy-duty trucks in a single country.

Said Art Balmadrid, who is IPC vice president for Corporate Business Division: "Isuzu aims to be the consistent market leader in the truck category—with our dependable, hardworking and environment-friendly trucks."

Last August, Isuzu presented the grandest and biggest truck showcase ever staged in the country—the Isuzu Truck Attack.

Art added that with the positive re-

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

sponse of the market, Isuzu expects to perform even better with exciting new offerings that will hit the market in the months to come.

TROOPER WINNER. Meanwhile, congratulations to Juliet Sarino, who won a 2005 Isuzu Trooper as her prize for buying an Isuzu Crosswind recently at the Isuzu dealership in Biñan, Laguna. Sarino is from 25 Ford St., Filinvest II, Batasan Hills, Quezon City. What a promo, indeed, from Isuzu. The Trooper, being Isuzu's premium SUV, is almost double the prize of the Crosswind. As usual, Isuzu's 1-2 punch, IPC president Yoshifumi Komura and EVP Kazuhiko Sho awarded the symbolic key of the Trooper to Sarino.

Some of the worst tricycle drivers you will find when you travel North are

those in Capas, Tarlac, and Tarlac City.

There is a huge billboard by the bridge entering Capas coming from Manila that reads: "Capas, Paspas sa Kalinisan!" It should have also included this: "Capas, Paspas Ang Mga Traysikel!"

Most of the tricycle drivers in Capas are so undisciplined they race like hell in the middle of the highway, courting fatal disaster by the minute.

The billboard by the bridge has the face of the town mayor, Reynaldo Catacutan, whose turf I guess has more tricycles than persons. I have no beef with tricycles; it's those manning them with recklessness that I take issue with. Many of them—there will always be exceptions, you know—disregard traffic laws indiscriminately. Why, because law enforcers themselves tolerate them.

Aren't tricycles banned in highways in the first place?

How many fatal accidents have happened in our highways involving tricycles, not to mention the kuligligs? The kuliglig is used primarily to till our rice fields. Like tricycles, they are also a menace to society. You see them all traversing the highways leading to Ilokos and Cagayan Valley.

In Capas, tricycles, like kuligligs, love to occupy even the center lanes of the highway when they could travel trouble-free on the shoulder, which are paved anyway. Even if you honk your horns at them, they never budge. They are deaf as a convent wall. And worst, traffic enforcers there tolerate law-breaking tricycle drivers in wild abandon.

What happens in Capas also happens almost daily in Tarlac City, where tricycles are all over, outnumbering four-wheeled vehicles by almost 10 to 1!

I know, I go to Pangasinan almost weekly now. After a trouble-free, oh-so-smooth ride at the North Luzon Expressway, I grit my teeth each time I approach the town of Capas because of those undisciplined tricycle drivers—not to mention the traffic enforcers allowing such chaos to happen right under their noses. And after Capas, it's Tarlac City.

Help!

QUOTE ME. When traveling long distance, it is always best to check your tires and your tire gauge before leaving.

GATES OPEN A LITTLE QUICKER. SECURITY SALUTES. VALETS RESPOND FASTER. AND LESSER VEHICLES HUMBLY CLEAR OUT OF YOUR WAY.



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'You have to get out there and try it on the road'

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHO wouldn't want to test a car before buying it? And why wouldn't manufacturers allow their cars to be test-driven by potential owners if this meant an increased chance of selling the car?

The international automotive business community has capitalized on test-drives to increase actual sales. Studies of test-drive promotions in other countries showed that car dealers have witnessed an increase in customer traffic by 26 percent coming in the showroom daily to test-drive new vehicles offered.

This increased interaction between car and potential owner is seen to have increased sales 6.2 percent.

Spelling the difference

Terence Hockenbush, international sales and negotiation consultant project director of the American Management Association, recently spoke at the joint Nissan and Universal Motors Corp. Test Drive campaign launch. In his talk, he

quoted this figure to stress that test drives could actually spell the difference in car promotions.

Hockenbush is the chief designer for the Nissan test-drive project in the Philippines.

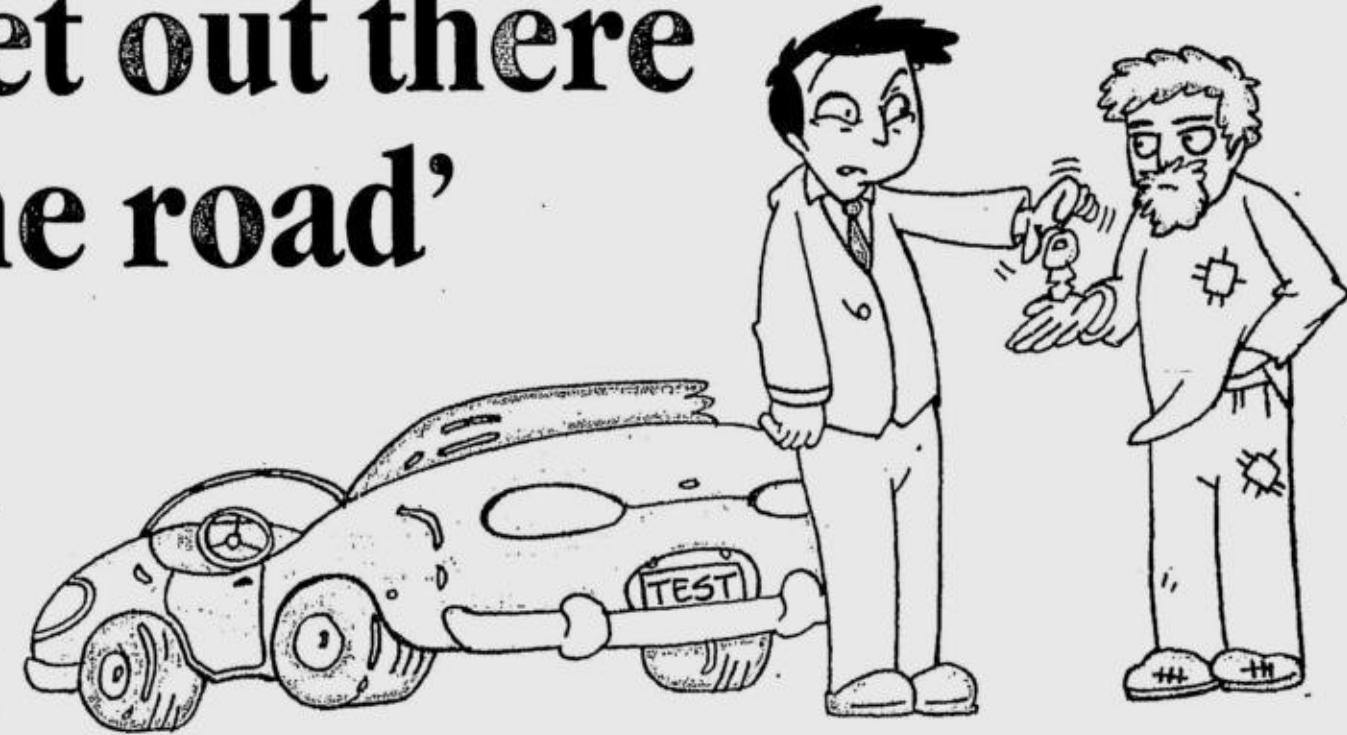
He realizes he has his work cut out for him here, though. Hockenbush said he observed test drive in the Philippines would just be an "afterthought" for some car assemblers. He further noted that some car dealers even went to the extreme—not allowing their test units to pile up mileage on the odometer reading.

If the car is meant as a test unit, then dealers might as well use it to satisfy the customer's curiosity, Hockenbush said.

Class biases

The Filipino society's class biases also surface at the showrooms. Hockenbush remarks of the sales staff's predilection for judging walk-ins by the way they look when they come into the showrooms. "They judge customers by their appearance, by what they are wearing," he said.

That is about to change, however, once Hockenbush's test-drive designs are practiced. "With the test-drive cam-



paign, irrespective of what the person looks like, the car dealer's objective is to get as many people an opportunity to test drive as possible."

He added that prejudging customers would not help get as many people aware of the product as possible. Who knows, he said, the person in shorts and T-shirt could be a sweet-talking salesman with a very rich friend on the lookout for a car.

The lack of enthusiasm of salespersons on the showroom could also get in the way of the customer reaching for his checkbook, Hockenbush noted. There was one time when a salesperson didn't

even bother to explain features that could have been otherwise adequately demonstrated.

Pilot runs

Nissan Motor Philippines made several pilot runs of the global Nissan Test Drive campaign at Nissan Westgate in Alabang and the Nissan Mantrade in Manila since Oct. 4. The campaign continues in all Metro Manila dealers and selected dealers in the provinces.

The Nissan Test Drive campaign first kicked off in Japan where the feedback among Nissan car buyers was positive. It will soon be launched in Europe and in

parts of Asia. In Malaysia, the NTD started Sept. 22, and Taiwan launched its own on Oct. 23.

"After buying a home, purchasing a car is the most important for a Filipino family," said Hockenbush.

And with more cars being introduced on a more frequent basis, Hockenbush observed the parallel increase of brand awareness and choices among Filipino car buyers. According to Hockenbush, the competition is not all about just one or two manufacturers anymore. The bottomline may rest on how welcoming the dealers are to an eager but shy Juan de la Cruz.

Audi A4 Quattro: High performance with unlimited roadworthiness

THE AUDI A4 quattro is the sporty and top-of-the-line model in the A4 range. This car is outstanding for its unique combination of unmistakable style and sporting exclusivity, of individuality and versatility. A commanding performance adds to the unlimited roadworthiness of the Audi A4 quattro.

It is the only car in its class to have quattro permanent four-wheel-drive system. It can therefore convert its engine output into propulsive power most efficiently at all times and enter a new dimension of superiority. This enables the performance potential to be translated into reliable traction and driving enjoyment whatever the situation.

Safety and comfort

This system provides high levels of active safety, and dependable traction on virtually all surfaces as well as excellent road holding, even in cross wind. It is superior to manual all-wheel-drive systems because of this "permanent safety advantage."

The 6-speed transmission provides superlative form of driving comfort in line with quattro permanent four-wheel drive. The 6-speed gearbox has a 30 percent greater spread of gears than the five-speed version. The driver benefits from enormous agility and driving enjoyment with acceleration that is as harmonious as it is dynamic, without any interruption in the power flow.

With its low unsprung mass and self-tracking trapezoidal-link rear suspension, the lightweight aluminum chassis ensures outstanding

driving dynamics. Good steering precision and exact handling complement the superior ride comfort of the Audi A4.

Powerful engine

A powerful yet economical gasoline engine provides the basis for excellent performance figures. The Audi A4 1.8 T demonstrates just how much power and refinement a modern turbo engine can have.

The 200 bhp version with 6-speed sports transmission reaches a top speed of 240 km/h and this power contributes as much to driving pleasure with its brisk acceleration from 0 to 100 km/h in approximately 7.3 seconds.

Sports appeal and individuality are also the characteristic features of the exclusive interior equipment of the Audi A4 quattro with its power sports seats, BOSE sound system and integrated in-dash 6-disc CD changer and 3-spoke sports steering

wheel in leather.

Bold exterior

The strikingly bold exterior warrants nothing but undivided attention. The optional equipment package consists of high-quality, carefully matched components which have been specially developed such as the 18-inch cast aluminum wheels with its RS4 design wheels and the full body kit that includes the tailgate spoiler and the front, rear and side skirts.

The A4 quattro is the only car in its class equipped with Xenon headlights.

Indeed, there's something untamed inside the "Best Car in Its Class for 2004" according to the auto mund sport, Germany. Feel the awesome power of the A4 quattro and satisfy your driving passion.

Audi is available through its exclusive distributor, Auto Prominence Corp. with its showroom address at 2326 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.



AUDI A4 Quattro



MAZDA Tribute

Own a Mazda Tribute, get 2 monthly payments free

THE ONLY SUV with the soul of a sports car is now within reach with only 20 percent down payment! Until Oct. 31, you can take home a Mazda Tribute 3.0 Liter with only 20 percent down payment on SRP 1,180,000 and your first two payments will be free for both 36-month and 48-month installment plans.

Made possible by Mazda Credit financing, this special deal makes owning the Mazda Tribute 3.0 liter easy for those who seek the soul of a sports car in an SUV.

The Mazda Tribute offers outstanding performance and comfort, as well as passenger-car-like agility and maneuverability. Moreover, you can experience impressive on-road performance, sure-footed handling and superb ride comfort packaged in a muscular and athletic design.

True embodiment

The Mazda Tribute is a true embodiment of the Mazda brand's DNA-distinctive design, exceptional functionality, outstanding aerodynamics and responsive handling and performance.

Its class-leading 3.0-liter V6 engine further contributes to the mix, designed to give it un-

compromising power, acceleration and fuel efficiency, enabling drivers to truly experience the thrill of a sports car in an SUV.

The sophisticated and insightful design of this SUV incorporates a combination of refined, distinctive styling and a bold and athletic appearance realized within sensible dimensions.

Stylish, exuberant

It is available in steel silver, infinity black, palladium white and mercury gold. Inside, it is stylish and exuberant with passenger-car refinement in its abundant cabin space, outstanding visibility and unmatched passenger and luggage-carrying flexibility.

The vehicle's safety features are just as outstanding with Dual SRS Airbags, side-impact door beams, Engine Immobilizer and antilock braking system, with Mazda's revolutionary Electronic Brake-Force Distribution that varies the amount of front and rear breaking force depending on vehicle load.

For more information, visit Mazda showrooms located in Alabang, Greenhills and Quezon Avenue. Promo lasts until Oct. 31 only.

General Motors redefines luxury with the Chevy Optra 1.8L

FOR YUPPIES who are well on their way to reaching their career goals, a comfortable life filled with only the finest things is a worthy reward. Designer wardrobes, trendy gadgets and luxury cruises are only some of the things that are naturally desired as they serve as status symbols that reflect professional and personal successes.

Riding in the lap of luxury, literally, aboard an exquisite car is something every single career-oriented yuppie probably dreams of. After a hard day's work, hopping into a car that offers superb comfort and elegance is a treat: an indulgence that closes a taxing day and wonderfully starts an evening of fun and relaxation.

With luxurious features

Fortunately, cars that have luxurious features are now within reach of these thriving yuppies. The Chevrolet Optra 1.8L, recently introduced by General Motors Automobiles Philippines to the local market, is one such car that offers the best of both worlds—luxury and utility.

The Optra 1.8L is the luxurious edition of the best-selling mid-sized sedan Chevrolet Optra 1.6L which was introduced last year. It is a functional car that fits the active lifestyle of upwardly mobile professionals and now enhanced with features that can give luxury cars a tough competition.

GMPh aims to redefine luxury with the Optra 1.8L. The car combines quality, luxury and value for money, and simply represents the idea that the best things in life shouldn't cost an arm and a leg.

Affordable luxuries

"When people think of luxury, it always comes with a price as in a lot of money," says Nicky Mariano, marketing director of GMPh. "But luxury must not be made exclusive to those who are extremely rich. Anyone who's reached his goals, in one



ENJOY the ultimate entertainment experience provided by a Blaupunkt audio system with a 5-disc in-dash CD changer and six speakers.

way or another, is entitled to luxury, and there are affordable luxuries," he adds.

Mariano said the Optra 1.8L was created to please the self-assured, smart individual who takes his automotive investments seriously. "At an introductory price of P799,000, the Optra 1.8L fits the young executives who are on their way to the top of the corporate ladder."

Monica, a 29-year-old financial management consultant who has recently acquired a black sapphire Optra 1.8L as gift to herself when she got promoted at work said she chose the car because it embodies "practical luxury." "When people see your car, they automatically gauge you as a person—how successful you are, what kind of lifestyle you lead, and what kind of taste you have," she says. "The Optra 1.8L has a certain kind of style that boosts my self-confidence."

The Optra 1.8L exudes a quiet sophisti-

cation that can only come from the expertise of Pininfarina, the famed Italian design house that has fashioned almost all Ferrari models. The car has alluring lines and super detailing; a see-through jewel-effect 4-element headlamps; crystal effect fog lamps and laminated windshield with solar tinted visor that creates that posh but unassuming personality.

Monica discloses that it's the understated sophistication of the Optra 1.8L that she was first attracted to. "It has a quiet elegance and it's perfect for a woman my age, status and resources. I also like it because it's roomy," she adds.

Underneath its elegant exterior, the Optra 1.8L boasts of power and performance. It has British-tuned suspension, and is loaded with the 1.8L 4-cylinder powerhouse that delivers 121 hp at 5,800 rpm and 165 N-m torque at 4,000 rpm. It guarantees a smooth, gliding ride as special care has been taken to reduce vibration with special engine mounts.

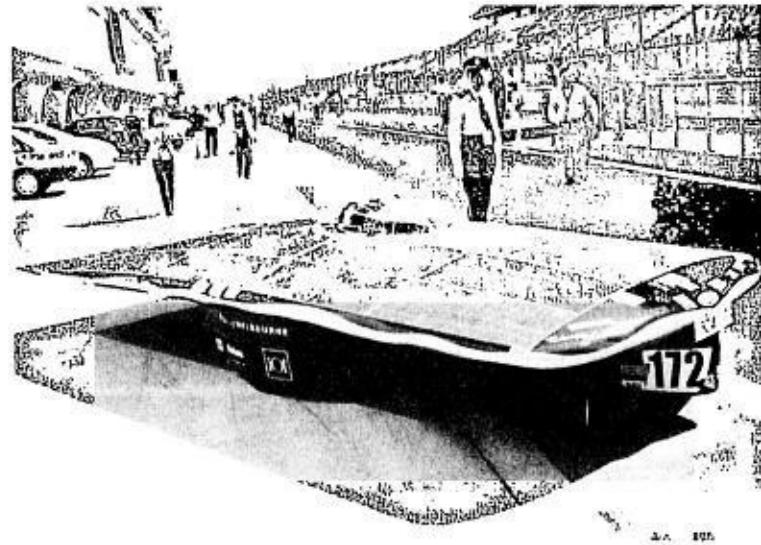
Inside the car, the seats are upholstered in the finest leather and the cabin panel is wood-finished offering lavish comfort and a subtle polished flair. Through the Total Noise Reduction System technology that blocks

SIDE and back view of OPTRA 1.8L



OPTRA 1.8L's understated sophistication





AN EXCLUSIVE entrant, the famous Aurora 101 solar car of Australia uses no fuel and produces no emissions.



WITH A GROWING population of vehicles, China now realizes the need to find clean and renewable sources of energy.



ONE of the electric bus entries that is now plying Beijing streets.

2004 CHALLENGE BIBENDUM

China tests the alternative energy path

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

(First of two parts)

THE ALL-NEW Shanghai International Circuit in China, which played host to its first Formula One Grand Prix last Sept. 26, entertained a very different field of competitors a few weeks after—zooming around its long straight and tight hairpins at a blistering... 70 kilometers per hour!

Although it is not the kind of competition one usually associates with a venue like this, the annually held Challenge Bibendum nevertheless deserves no less than the maximum exposure for its noble goal: provide the world with impartial information on the latest technological advances in the field of environment-friendly vehicles.

Said René Zingraff, one of the two managing partners of Michelin Group, the event's organizer: "This event does not set out to provide solutions, but to highlight the most significant advances. It helps understand via demonstrations, what the different technological fields are and how they fit into the global picture."

And for Zingraff, choosing China as the venue for this year's Challenge Bibendum (the event was already held thrice in Europe and twice in the United States) seemed appropriate since the country is in a stage of realizing the importance of developing clean cars.

Tremendous interest

Compared with much of the rest of the world, China is just beginning to experience an automotive industry boom.

It began in 2000 when China produced and sold over 2 million vehicles, then the figure grew to 2.37 million in

2001, over 3 million in 2002 and over 4 million in 2003, among which private cars were more than 70 percent.

Today, the country is now regarded the world's third largest automaker (after the US and Japan) and yet, China has decided to push to develop alternative fuels.

"China has shown tremendous interest. It has in fact, participated in last year's staging in California to realize the impact of a clean automotive industry," said Zingraff. "It was not surprising that the Chinese government has thrown its full support to bring Challenge Bibendum to their country this year," he added.

No stranger

China is no stranger to the dark side of its love affair with the car—dependence on imported oil, jampacked roads, cities awash in smog.

According to Dr. Gang Wan, acting president of Tongji University in Shanghai and member of Challenge Bibendum International technical committee, China is expected to experience a growing population of 8 million every year over the next 15 years.

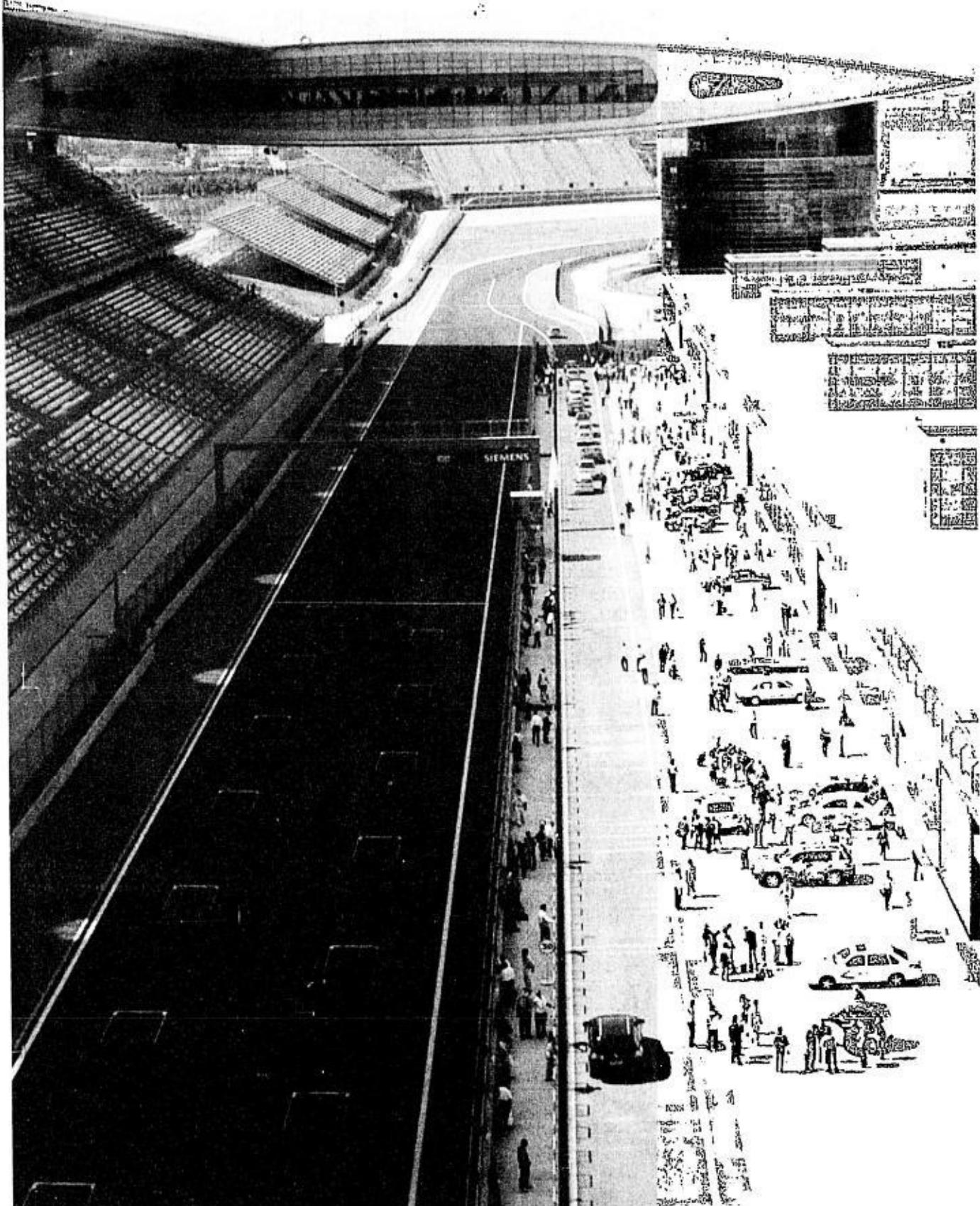
To create job opportunities for this new population, China has to achieve an annual 6 percent GDP growth until 2020.

12 percent growth

"To accomplish the aim, China's automotive industry will need to achieve a yearly growth rate of 12 percent. In that sense, the country is expected to have 130 million vehicles by 2020, which will lead to an oil consumption of 250 million tons. That amount accounts for 60 percent of China's total oil demand," Wan revealed.

He added that China will need over 400 million tons of crude oil in 2020.

Said Wan: "However, only up to 170 million tons can be produced domesti-



THE NEWLY opened Shanghai International Circuit provides a fitting venue for the world's No. 1 event in promoting sustainable road mobility.

cally. Therefore, finding new sources of energy, particularly renewable energy, is crucial. On the other hand, updating of the current available technology is also another good approach. In Europe, most of the vehicles are driven by clean diesel, which has less impact on the environment. China can learn from Europe in this sense."

Good opportunity

Wan believes that the holding of the sixth Challenge Bibendum event in Shanghai is definitely a good opportunity for China to learn from other countries spearheading in the development of clean auto sector.

He observed that while the fast development in the China's automotive industry will contribute to its economy and improve people's lives, it may also cause a dramatic increase in oil consumption and increased negative effects

in the environment.

"It was only recently that China established and accepted the view that a vehicle is not only an industrial product but also a common commodity which is related to the daily life of the public," Wan said.

Indeed, the cutting-edge technologies that the 2004 Challenge Bibendum brought may provide China with many good examples as this country tries to develop its own technology.

No. 1 event

Just five years after it was first launched, the Challenge Bibendum is now internationally recognized as the No. 1 event in promoting sustainable road mobility.

The contest between the different energy sources takes place within the framework of a friendly, but perfectly defined competition.

"The vehicles are evaluated in real driving conditions, using precisely defined criteria (choice of performances related to the environment and overall vehicle safety)," explained Grace Chee of Michelin Asia-Pacific/Michelin Asia.

This year, 74 vehicles competed in the race (out of the 150 vehicles presented) with more than 50 percent running on electricity (battery- or fuel cell-powered) while a significant number competed with internal combustion engines that uses biofuels.

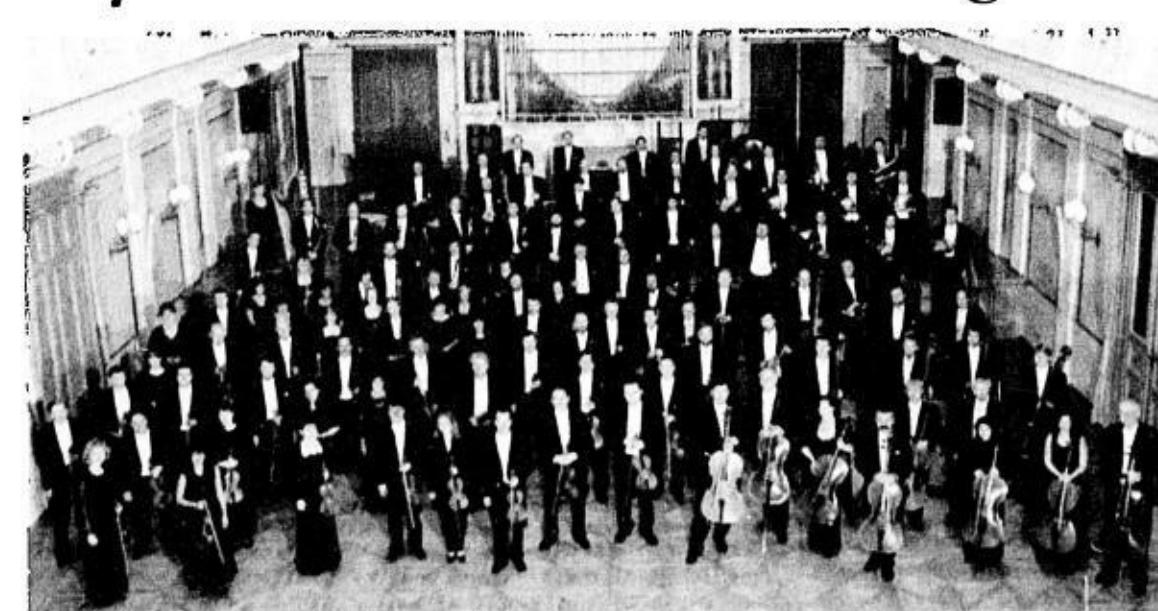
China was strongly represented with 43 vehicles, including 15 buses.

The bus entries were included since Beijing announced that starting this year, the capital city will implement the commercial demonstration of solely electric bus on most of its 121 bus lines in keeping with its "Green Olympic Games" theme (Beijing was chosen to host the 2008 Olympic Games).



EUROPE'S PRIDE: They all use diesel with some environment-friendly modifications.

Toyota Classics at Teatro Aguinaldo



THE BRNO Philharmonic Orchestra

From page C8

came principal cellist of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra with illustrious Dutch conductor Edo deWart. He participated in various southeast Asian art festivals both as soloist and recitalist.

Lucas embarked on a concert tour of China with the PPO String Quartet in 1987. He pursued postgraduate cello and conducting studies in Germany as DAAD fellow. His recording of Bruch's Kol Nidre drew rave reviews and was recently released on CD. Another CD of Romances for the Cello by Filipino Composers is due for release in July.

The 2004 Toyota Classics is earmarked for the benefit of the Pondo ng Pinoy Community

Foundation Inc. Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, D.D., heads the project, launched last June.

The organization aims to fulfill the evangelical mission of the Church to bring the fullness of life to the less fortunate in the Philippines. This noble mission is done by encouraging families to save 25 centavos a day for future use.

Visit the Tickeworld outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinsons Department Store (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills). Tickets are also available on the Tickeworld website found at www.tickeworld.com.ph. Call 891-5610 for inquiry or reservation.



LUCAS

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Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

Frightfest!

Greetings, reveler.

Thank you for picking up this week's 2bU!—your guide to this scary season. If you're planning to celebrate Halloween with your friends, have:

- Creepy but yummy recipes for your Halloween party
- Urban legends and campus ghost stories you can retell to spook your friends out
- Terrifying faces and even more terrifying people to jumpstart your conversations
- Gorgeous costumes guaranteed to make you a standout.

If you'd rather stay at home, we have:

- Spine-tingling books you can curl up with
- Entertaining stories on astrology and a well-loved horoscope writer.

If Halloween isn't your thing, we have:

- A flashback of Sunday's VIP event
- PAWS, celebrities and the animals they love.

Enjoy!



SYEMPRE sa mga patay, pero sa mga buhay din.—Tutay, 15

THE CRUEL world out there.—Reden, 14

TAKOT ako sa ipis.—Sherry Yu, 20, has roach-killing chalk

2BU! SURVEY

What scares you the most?



I'M afraid of *manananggal* and lions and headless ghosts. But I am very afraid of my father, in a good way ha!—Jasmine Bautista, 19, claims to be a daddy's girl



FAILURE. I don't want to fail in anything. I am also afraid of hurting other people. And the future, since I have no idea what it will bring me.—Marie Jean Riño, 21

Text and photos by
Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S spook season once again. When Goths become ordinary faces in the crowd, freaks are happier than ever and "Shake, Rattle and Roll" movies grace our television screens. Headless ghosts and crawling corpses in slow-mo may take center stage this time of year, but they're not the only ones giving people out there a scare. Check the answers below and see for yourself.

I'm most scared of creepy noise, quiet and spacious places plus the dark. —Arjuna Estrellado, 20

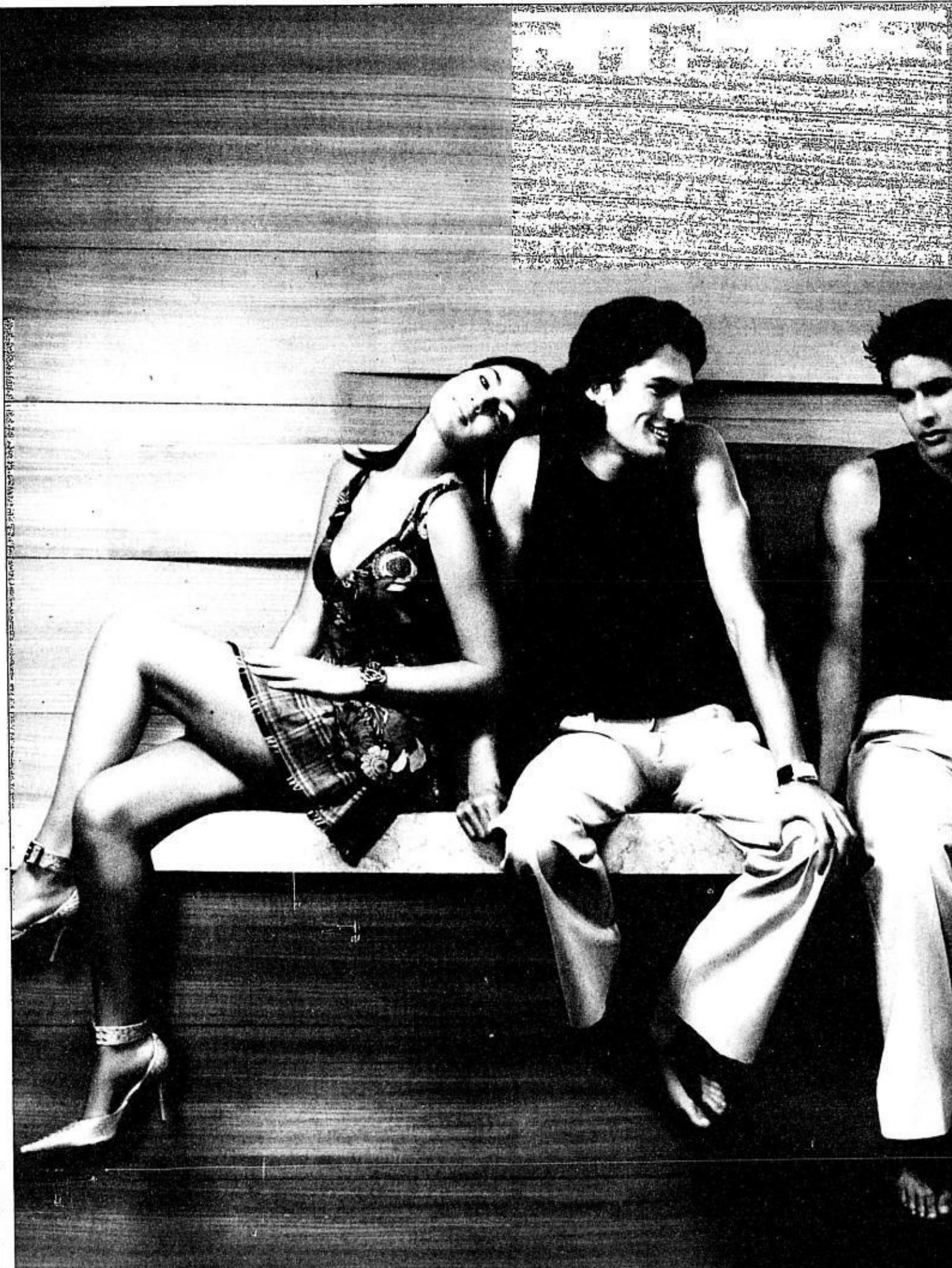
To see my mother die. —Erica Montezon, 19

Ghost stories, but I love watching movies with ghosts in them. —Dhang

One time I saw my father smiling when I looked into the mirror, even if he had been dead for 17 years already. I'm scared of seeing him again in a mirror. —Gemmyca, 19

I'm scared of not having a partner in life. I have had relationships that ended tragically, and I think I won't have a

WHAT/D2



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URBAN legends

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

URBAN legends are scary tales passed around usually by word of mouth, but now also increasingly through e-mail and texting. These stories are endlessly told and re-told, acquiring numerous versions and nuances in the retelling. Here are some famous local tales.

Snake twin

Allegedly, a businesswoman has a snake for a twin. This snake twin is said to be the secret to the family's fortune and success. The snake twin is said to be in human form but with scales all over his body. He has no bones, and is supposedly housed inside one of the family's chain of shopping malls.

That particular mall is said to have a series of tunnels underneath where the snake twin waits. The mirrors in the ladies' fitting rooms are one-way mirrors which the snake twin uses to pick out his next victim. A trap door opens, the victim tumbles in, and the snake has his feast. A certain actress was said to have seen this snake-man when she tried on a dress in one of the fitting rooms.

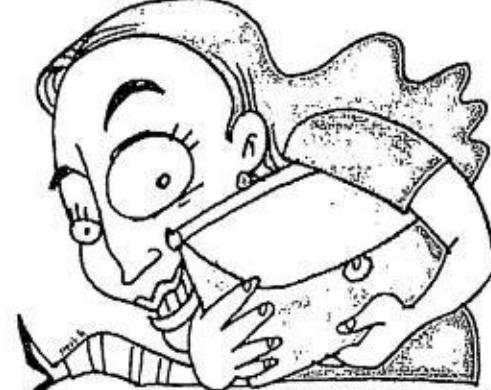


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Acid lady

A crazed lady is said to wander the streets of Manila with a bottle of acid in her bag. She walks up to pretty women and throws the acid at their faces.

Another version says an unstable lady splashed acid on the face of her sister out of anger and jealousy. She is said to have received psychiatric care, but was discharged and is now roaming the streets ready to wreak havoc again.

Food for thought

A number of popular food items are said to be unsafe or tampered with. A Pinoy food chain is rumored to be using worms instead of beef in its burgers. Its chief competitor, on the other hand, is using sayote instead of apples in its apple pies.

How about these? Pieces of a dead man are in soft drink bottles, while the other brand has glass shards in its bottled drinks. A big fried chicken chain serves not breaded chicken but rats, and makers of siopao don't really use pork but cat meat.

Insects galore

Insects are finding different ways to get into our system, or so the stories go. A woman sealing envelopes for a living uses a sponge to wet the envelopes. One day she decides to use her tongue. A few days later, she notices a lump growing in her tongue. It gets so big she decides to have it checked. The doctor cuts open the lump and a cockroach crawls out.

A vacationing woman lies on the beach getting a tan all day long. Rumor has it that lying on the sand too long can cause small worms to enter your pores. She doesn't believe this, of course. Later that week, while drying her hair, the woman tilts her head and out of her ear falls a worm.



AIDS scare

People were cautioned about watching movies in a certain movie house in the mid-'90s, because a crazed HIV patient was said to be putting infected needles in theater seats with messages like "Welcome to world of AIDS."



Future mate

This is a tale tied to witchcraft. It is said that to find your future mate, place a lighted candle in front of a mirror and look at the right side, where the face of your future mate will appear. But never look at the left side of the mirror, though, for it's the face of the devil that will appear.



ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Blood for the structure

Superstition says that in order to strengthen the foundation of a bridge or a road, human blood must be mixed with the cement. The more blood is mixed, the stronger the structure becomes.

Another version says new roads should be avoided, since it hasn't had its fill of new blood and a lot of accidents can still happen.



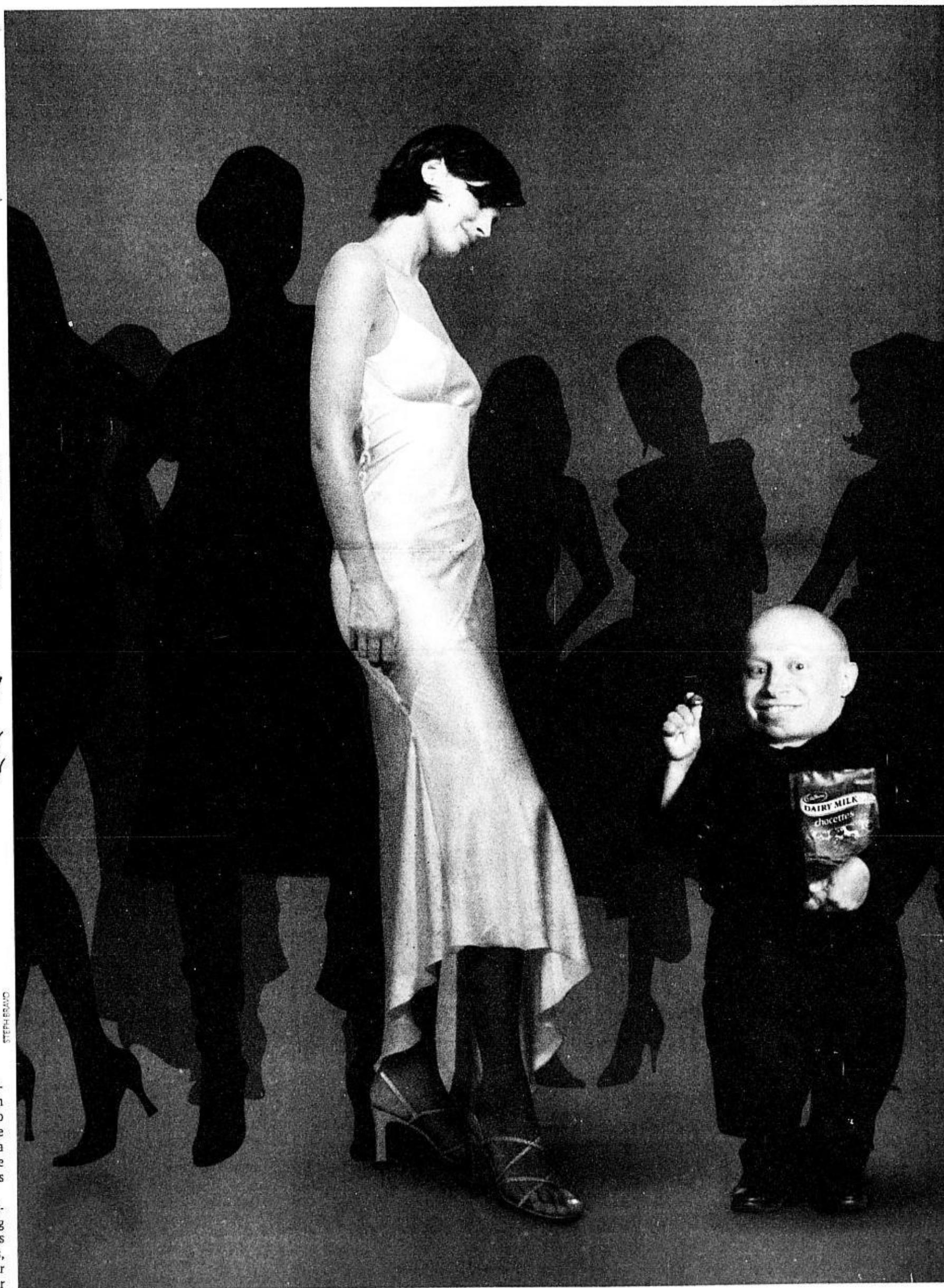
ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Share some more scary stories with the author at s_a_l_e_m_a@yahoo.com.

These stories don't die, they just morph into new versions.

Ever heard of these shockers?

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ



Perfect for sharing.



Someone to watch over us

By Arlene M. Paredes
2bU! Correspondent

HERE is no death—no death, but only change/And innovation; what men call birth/Is but a different new beginning; death/Is but to cease to be the same."

—From: "The Doctrines of Pythagoras"

I asked a paranormal practitioner about his beliefs on death, or what happens after a person dies. He said, "There is no death, just transformation."

On the other hand, the Catholic Church, according to lay minister Boy Cruz (of the Nuestra Señora de Candelaria Parish, Silang, Cavite), believes the spirit of the dead proceeds to purgatory to be cleansed of their sins hence, we pray for them so they may have peace in the presence of God.

Essentially, there is life after death both for the paranormal practitioner and the lay minister. So, I thought to myself, if this was the case, how have my parents

How do young adults cope with the loss of a loved one, and how do they remember them on All Souls' Day?

changed since they passed away?

No time for grief

I asked a number of young adults who had lost parents or grandparents how they coped with the loss, and how they remember their loved ones on All Souls' Day.

Loida Reyes, 24, a former administration assistant, says that after her father died of a sudden heart attack over a month ago, she found no time to truly express her grief, as she had to be strong

for her mother and two elder sisters.

"It was really difficult. I really tried not to cry during the wake because I wanted my mom to see that I was okay, that we'd be okay."

She often goes to the cemetery with her mother and sisters, and there they recall fond memories of her father. "I know that he is with the Lord right now and watching over us."

Emily Telmo, 24, a former research assistant, says she always talks to her father as if he were still around. "Alam ko namang palagi ko siya kasama."

When a big brown butterfly flutters around her, "I talk to the butterfly as if it were my father, transformed into another form, greeting me in his own special way," she says. It's a belief she got from her elders.

Jerick Javier, 19, a Nursing student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, says he grew up without his father, who spent much time working abroad. But when his father died, Jerick still felt devastated.

"But thanks to my mom's strong personality and strong

faith in God, I've understood and accepted that we will all die someday, and those who remain must learn to move on," he says, adding that, "Up to my dad's last minute, he was telling us how he loved us so much. I know he has always loved us, and that's enough for me because I know that despite the distance then and now, we were and are never truly separated from one another."

Jorge Madias Jr., 19, also a Nursing student at Emilio Aguinaldo College, recalls that his father died of liver cirrhosis Dec. 14 last year. The pain was made so much worse by the fact that the family would be incomplete on Christmas, which was barely two weeks away.

"Honestly, I'm still grieving. I would say I do have resentments against the hospital where he was confined. Maybe it's just natural to think there were some things that could have been done to help him. I just felt so helpless then," he says. But Jorge knows he should move on. "I just tell myself that he is happy right now, working abroad and helping us."



CAROL Servano



JORGE Madias Jr.



LOIDA Reyes

says. "I guess a part of me will always believe that she's just around. I guess that's the only way for us to be not bitter about a loved one's death."

Just abroad

Well, I can relate to these testimonies. I've lost both my mom and dad, but I sometimes think that my father is just abroad, and my mother will go home late at night tired from doing her work.

I will not say pretending is the key to moving on. But we do need to comfort ourselves from time to time, especially when the pain and the loneliness get too difficult to handle. So we just cling to the memories of our loved ones and realize that, yes, somehow they're still with us.

On her deathbed three months ago, my mother told me, "I'm leaving so I could watch you 24 hours a day." She does now.

With contributions from Jorge Madias

E-mail the author at ihen@postmark.net



The scariest people to walk the Earth

From page D2

apparent reason, he satisfies his blood lust with ever-increasing ferocity, culminating in the near destruction of his final victim, and then vanishes from the scene forever. The perfect ingredients for the perennial thriller.

3. Rasputin

Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin is one of the most mysterious, notorious and disputed figures in Russian history.

Who was this man who seemingly had strange powers and a mysterious influence

over others? Did Rasputin have supernatural faculties, as he claimed? Or was he merely a charismatic madman who had a mastery of hypnosis?

Rasputin's rise to preeminence under the aegis of the royal family was due to the fact that he had "supernatural powers". He was the only one who could heal the heir to the throne's hemophilia, and seemed to be able to compel people to do as he wished (scholars attribute both phenomena to hypnosis).

Even his death was eerily unnatural...

Rasputin was fed poisoned cakes and wine by his enemies, but these did not affect him. He was then shot at point-blank range and Rasputin collapsed on the floor.

Later, as the killers inspected the body, Rasputin suddenly regained consciousness and started to throttle one of the assailants. They then proceeded to shoot and bludgeon him, then bound him and tossed him into the river. When Rasputin's body was found, his bonds were broken and his lungs were filled with water, showing that he didn't actually die until he was submerged in frozen waters (scholars argue about how Rasputin could've done these feats).

4. Marquis de Sade

The Marquis de Sade will always be known as the most perverse of perverts (The term 'sadism' came from him).

Shortly after his wedding in 1763, he began living a scandalous libertine existence and repeatedly abused young prostitutes and employees of both sexes, later with the help of his wife. A series of scandals and imprisonments followed. It was during his time in prison that he wrote his "literary contributions". De Sade's works contain explicit and often repetitive descriptions of rape and a great number of sexual perversions, many of which involved violence and constantly pushed what was considered "tasteful". He also advocated a hedonistic lifestyle and the rejection of all moral and ethical rules.

As if his writings and lifestyle weren't sick enough, he also began an affair with twelve-year-old Madeleine Leclerc of Charenton. This affair lasted some four years, until de Sade died in an asylum in 1814.

5. Josef Mengele

The Holocaust brought out a number of monsters. Many of the German officers carried out the killings of the Jews with evil indifference. No one personified this evil more than Joseph Mengele, known as the Angel of Death. Mengele was an avid supporter of the systematic killings of the Jews and took glee in it, such as his drawing a line on the wall of the children's block between 5 feet and 5 feet 2 inches from the floor, then sending those whose heads could not reach the line to the gas chamber.

Mengele was most notorious for doing the unthinkable: he performed scientific experiments on live human beings in the interest of "scientific discovery". Josef Mengele, a geneticist, took particular interest in twins.

Mengele was almost fanatical about drawing blood from twins, mostly identical twins. He is reported to have bled some to death this way. Mengele injected chemicals into the eyes of children in an attempt to change their eye color.

He did both physical and psychological experiments, surgeries without anesthesia, transfusions of blood from one twin to another, isolation tests and reaction to various stimuli. He made injections with lethal germs, sex-change operations, the removal of organs and limbs and incestuous pregnancies. He did all these without feeling a single shred of remorse or pity.

6. Vlad Tepes

Ah yes. What would a list of scariest people be without the man who inspired Dracula? More than anything else, "Vlad Dracul" was known for his inhuman cruelty. Impalement was Vlad's preferred method of torture and execution.

Impalement was (and is) one of the most gruesome ways of dying imaginable, as it was typically slow and painful. In fact, Vlad became an expert on impalement, finding ways to slowly skewer his victims without killing them too quickly.

He also turned it into his own "art," often arranging the impaled victims in geometric patterns. It was this practice that led people to call the execution sites as the "Forest of the Impaled".

Even during his brief period of imprisonment, Vlad found ways of practicing his gruesome hobbies. In his prison cell, Vlad would catch small rodents and birds and impale them using small forks and little spears.

7. Hannibal Lecter

Okay, so maybe I'm kind of cheating here since, technically, Hannibal Lecter is a fictional character. But Hannibal Lecter has indisputably become one of the most feared cannibals to grace the pages of a book.

Created by author Thomas Harris, Hannibal Lecter became the poster boy of terror because he represented the worst kind of evil, the one wearing sheep's clothing. The "good doctor" was a man of impeccable tastes (no pun intended). He loved the distinguished scene in Florence, Italy, preferred high-class living and wine and listened to classical music. He also possessed uncanny intelligence and wit.

This was in stark contrast to his true nature as a psychopath who would kill, cook, then eat his victims. What made the character of Hannibal Lecter an effective arch-villain is the fact that he gets what he wants using his brilliance. He would often brainwash or "suggest" to people so they would do his wish, and often found ways of outsmarting his enemies.

Perhaps this is why he is a popular contemporary villain. It is a lot scarier and compelling to chase an elusive enemy and be outsmarted than it is to be chased by an enemy and be outsmarted.

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QuoQuo

Written in the Stars

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

I AM a Gemini. Sign of the twins. I was born at 7:15 p.m. at the Manila Doctors Hospital on June 3, 1983.

I know that writers, lawyers and performers often belong to this category. I know that Geminis are "adaptable, versatile, communicative, witty, intellectual and eloquent."

I know that between the dual Gemini personalities, I am supposed to be the more extroverted one. This, I think, is due to my being so high on coffee that I hug everyone, even strangers.

I know that as far as relationships go, I have highest affinity for fellow Geminis and Aries, and that I am supposed to stay away from Sagittarians.

But I don't believe in astrology. I never have. Why my relatively passable knowledge of my corner of the zodiac? In a word, it's fun. It satisfies my desire to see some signs, no matter how trivial or untrue, of a grand design for the world.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, our fates lie not in heavenly bodies, but in ourselves

I admit I sometimes read my horoscope, but I do it just to see if anything in it does happen. I make it a point to read it only after my day has ended, because that's when I think the reading stops becoming self-fulfilling. In the lab where I'm doing my thesis, it has become a ritual to read our hilarious Libre horoscopes, which often provide a needed breather from our experiments.

Power of creation

Religion is the primary reason why I do not believe in astrology. As a Catholic, I was taught to pray for solutions to problems, for enlightenment, for understanding. Stars are a sign of God's power of creation, not a means to calculate destinies. To believe in the stars is tantamount to idolatry. For the strictest of worshippers, astrology is a sin.

And yet, despite the predominance of Catholicism in this country, nearly every Filipino probably knows, at the very least, his zodiac sign.

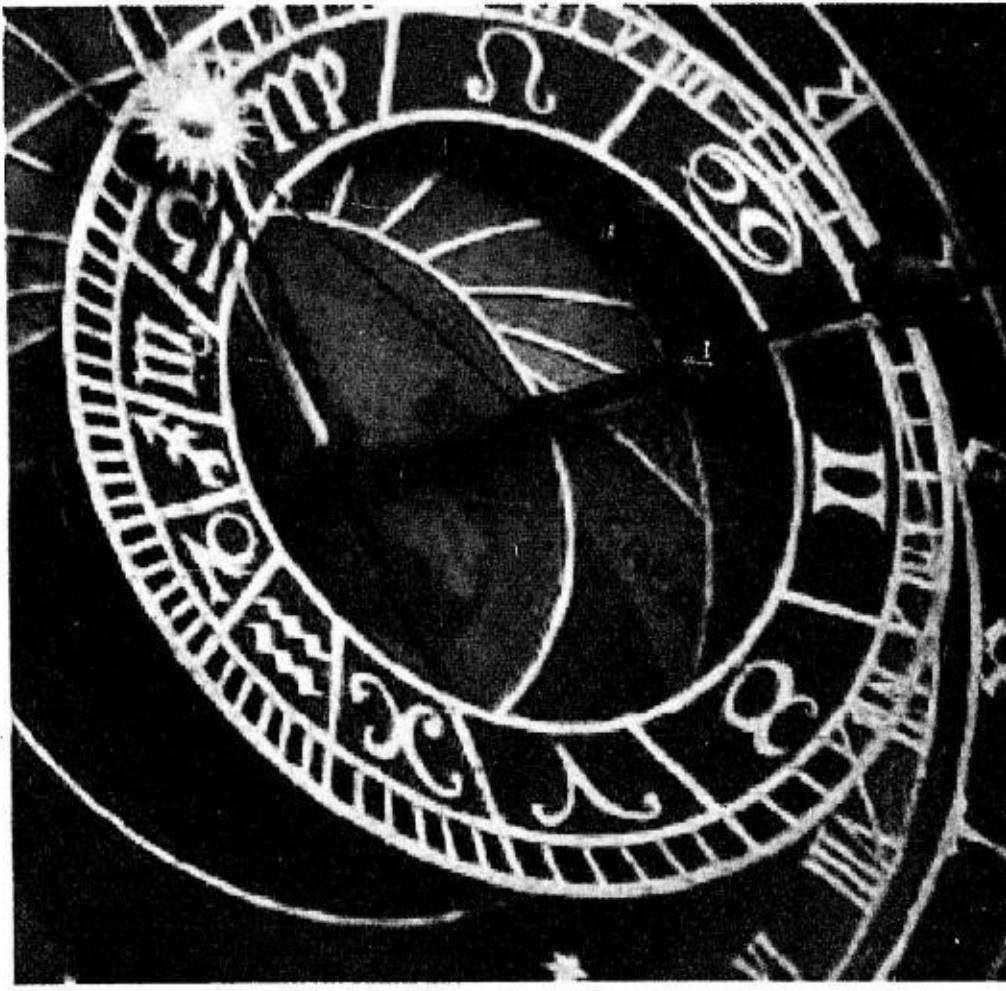
Fatalism is arguably what accounts for our lack of progress as a nation. We see this attitude in the way we deal with everyday things. Instant wealth through lottery numbers, instant degrees through six-month education programs, instant employment through popular yet short-term jobs—all these reflect how fast we want the solutions to appear.

And yet as far as fatalistic countries go, astrologers would probably point out China as a counter-example. For a nation deeply in thrall to feng shui, China is remarkably and enviably progressive.

Eternally disputable

As far as science goes, astrology is nonsense, a field devoid of logic and reason, and eternally disputable. Because "readings" are interpreted differently by people and are often too general to constitute anything more than mere coincidence, astrology is considered, at best, a game.

Being a student of science has further conditioned me to dismiss astrology. The foundations of everything I have learned the past four years have all been supported by experimental proof, painstakingly gathered and analyzed. Although many of us believe the answers to many of life's most fundamental



AND the compass shall point to your destiny....

questions are probably out there, we also don't think we can get them by scavenging the sky for vibrations of celestial bodies.

Some time ago, I was surprised to find out that Kary Mullis, a 1993 Nobel Prize laureate for his invention of the polymerase chain reaction (a method I have had to desperately repeat dozens of times in the past year), was a believer in astrology. For a scientist (one of the pioneers in my field, in fact) to openly say

that was unusual, to say the least.

In his book, "Dancing Naked in the Mine Field," he titled one of his chapters "I am a Capricorn." And he wrote, "I began to think about astrology in the mid-1960s after three strangers had correctly classified me as a Capricorn. The probability of that happening by chance is 1 out of 1,728."

Then again, this is a scientist who does not believe in global warming despite all evidence so far to the contrary.

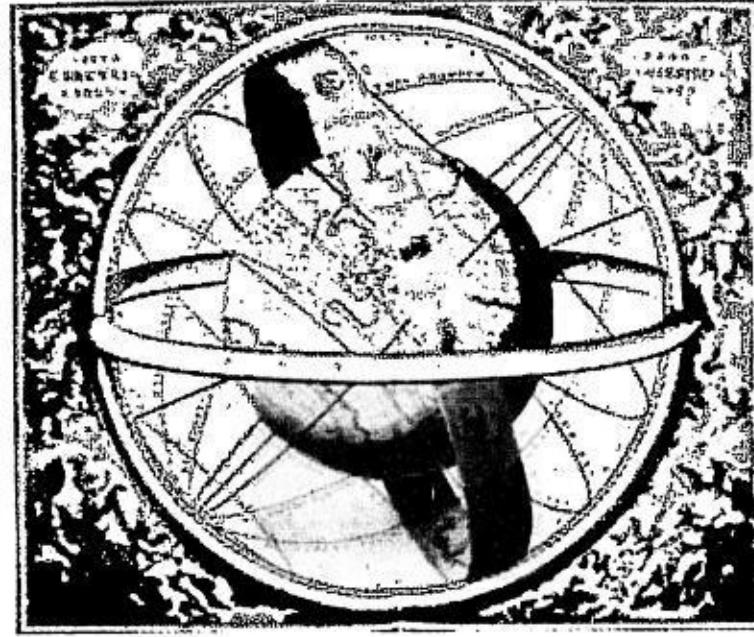
Self-made destiny

Maybe astrology's inherent difficulty is also what makes me loath to embrace. All those latitudes and longitudes, alignments of the stars and planets, eclipses of the sun and the moon... it's like calculus all over again, only this time you have to look up at the heavenly bodies instead of down at your textbook.

But I think many of us don't believe in it largely out of principle. Because we believe we are what we make of ourselves, not what some stars have decreed for us. To accept astrology feels like accepting the box that the constellations have laid out for us, that we have certain limitations that our will cannot overcome, that we can never do more than what we are celestially equipped to do.

To believe that our fates have been predetermined only says we are incapable of doing things greater than ourselves.

E-mail the author at cathy.young1@yahoo.com



MAPPING the fates



Gemini

Shaman, seer and jester

Text and photos
by Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

BURIED in the pages of Libre every day is a much-anticipated section: the horoscope.

With love predictions that read "Hindi siya mukhang kabayo; amoy lang," and career forecasts like "Huwag tumabi sa fax machine," it is no wonder that this daily horoscope has gained an avid following in the past three years.

The man behind these hilarious predictions is Romel Montemayor Lalata. Once a BS Civil Engineering student of UP Diliman, he left the college because of "too many left-wing activists and late nights of Dungeons and Dragons" which he said took a toll on his grades.

He decided to take up Philippine Studies instead after noticing the lack of research in Philippine history. He soon realized, however, that he wanted to study the Philippines up close, not within the four walls of the classroom.

Lalata dropped out of school altogether and lived independently. Because of his skill in writing, he became the assistant editor of INQUIRER's online edition in January 1998, eventually becoming its online editor until August 1999 when he resigned.

He then worked for a Hong Kong-based finance magazine as a financial technology writer and the content manager of its website. But in August 2001, he got an offer to join Libre, and he jumped at the chance.

His increasingly popular work on the horoscopes eventually attracted the attention of Cesar

How a former UP student ended up writing INQUIRER Libre's famous Pinoy-inflected horoscopes

Cosme of Bubble Gang, who invited him to work for the gag show. Now, he's been with the program for two years.

To keep his horoscopes fresh every day, Lalata says he needs a gamut of ideas and a good ear. "It's important that you commute," he notes. "Hindi ka magta-taxi, you ride a jeep; you walk, you listen to people's conversation, mamalengke ka. I don't have a car; naglalakad ako

just to hear flashes of conversation. So *lahat ng mga ito*, inspired 'yan by real experiences ng real people—yung comments ng mga tao who don't have to watch what they're saying."

An avid reader of science fiction and fantasy, he also turns to books for his predictions. "I have references—books by Linda Goodman (Love Signs), references sa Internet. The problem is that when you're reading horoscopes from the United States, it's so American, not for Pinoyys."

That's where his funny bone comes in, transforming these alien predictions into quintessentially Pinoy vignettes.

"Sometimes when I run out of ideas I fall back sa books na may seryosong horoscopes. [I repeat predictions] lalo na kung gahol na sa oras. Pero kung masaya ako, kung inspired ako, if nasa MRT for example, nagsusulat ako or [I

save it] sa cellphone."

"As much as possible, gusto kong original, pero minsan kasi ang hirap mag-isip dahil I've been doing it for almost three years. When I encounter a new experience, marami akong natutuhan. So I go out, I talk to people, I look around. So a lot of the stuff there are also my personal experiences," he adds.

Light-hearted astrology

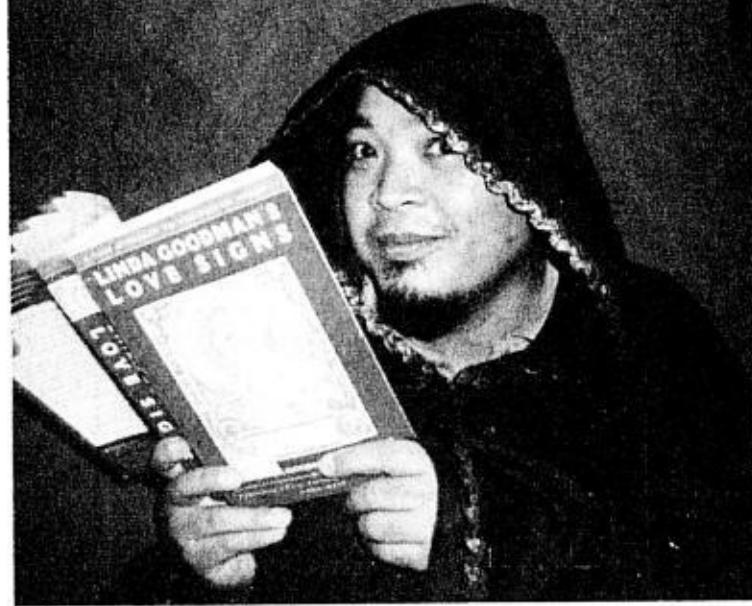
As anyone who has dabbled in the psychic realm knows, it is bad to do this for money. Lalata recalls a friend who was very serious about astrology.

"Sabi sa 'kin, yung ginagawa niyo, racket yan. Kasi people have specific horoscopes. People are born on a definite day at a definite place, and the stars cannot be the same for everyone. Kasi may latitudes and longitudes pa... yun ang totoong pagbasa ng horoscope."

"But what we do in Libre is not strictly that kind of school, 'di ba?" he says, laughing. "Yung objective namin is to make people laugh. Yung may babaunin sila nang buong araw na masaya sila."

Lalata loves being read by so many Filipinos and getting feedback. Ask him the worst thing about his job and he says, "Tumatawa kami. Ako ang pinakataas ang cholesterol dito sa INQUIRER."

Despite the main objective of putting a smile on



'ETO ang Friendster picture ko.

people's faces early in the day, Lalata also finds it strange that many of his fortunes come true. "I get calls na minumura ako in a fun way: 'Grabe ka! Bakit ganito ang horoscope ko?' So word gets around na tumatama yung horoscopes."

Born on Sept. 23, this fortuneteller is himself caught in a zodiac "limbo"—a cusp between Libra and Virgo. He is also on the fence when it comes to his beliefs in astrology: "Zodiac signs not really... but in a way, oo din eh. Ang definite sa Pinoy is we all know our zodiac signs. You go to some other countries, hindi nila alam. Sa Pinoy, we're raised to believe in that. Kahit hindi formally tinuturo sa atin, it's so much ingrained in our belief system. So paano kung tumatama pagbasa ng horoscope."

But beyond horoscopes and tarot cards, Lalata relies most on his gut. "I've never been wrong sa gut feel in terms of career decisions, except yung mga pinatutang ko. Fortunetelling never seems to work when it comes to money. It works sa relationships [because a lot of it is] self-fulfilling. 'Pag malaki yung decision factor, it works. Pero kung malaki yung external factor—money, lottery—eh 'di mayaman na sana ko."

Speaking of lottery numbers, he remembers having a very vivid dream about the number seven. "Tumaya ako pero sana lang kasi hindi ko na alam yung ibang numbers. And it did come out." Perhaps there is something mystical to his talents, after all.

"People are not totally rational despite scientific and technological advances. I just think that it's wrong to let [astrology] control your life. Guide nga lang ito ch;

you shouldn't take it so seriously," he says.

Need for magic

Interestingly, Lalata utilizes tarot cards when making decisions. "It helps. Gaya ng sabi ni Carl Jung, nasa iyo na yung answers; instru-

AND now I'll show you the five-point palm exploding heart technique...

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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by Bianca Consunji
2bUI Correspondent
Photos by Jake
Versoza
CO-STYLIST ABIGAIL PUZON

FORGET
plastic
fangs, rub-
ber masks and
unimaginative
black outfits.

Although Halloween is usually associated with ghouls and witches, people have been using the occasion to live out all kinds of fantasies. Which explains why you have vampires mingling with Britney Spears wannabes. Halloween isn't scary anymore. It's one big costume party!

Well, sometimes, anyway. More often than not, the only extravagant outfits on the trick-or-treat scene are worn by kids, courtesy of the children's corner in the department stores. They invariably go as: a) Morticia Addams, b) blond pop star/cheerleader, and c) themselves (with the explanation that they look scary enough on their own).

For many, the ultimate costume is an all-black ensemble and lots of eyeliner—which, when you think about it, is just your friendly goth next door's everyday outfit.

Granted, finding costumes for guys isn't easy, but girls have it made. Remember that fluffy ball skirt you got for the prom? Or that peasant blouse everyone was wearing two years ago? How about the costume your designer friend made for a fashion show?

Even the basic little black dress could be reincarnated into a costume—add a feather boa, borrow a wig, slip on fishnet stockings, and poof! You're all set to live out your "Chicago".

FANTASIES/E2

Fantasies from our closet

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Fantastyles

from our closet

ON ERIC: White polo and sash, stylist's own; jeans, model's own. On Mayette: White peasant blouse and scarf (used as a belt), K2; ball gown (used as a skirt) with matching shawl, and belts, Karimadon



Flapper Girl

ON ERIC: Brown coat and hat, K2. On Denise: beaded black dress, Karimadon; faux pearls, stylist's own; black fishnet stockings, K2; wig from Bergmann



China Doll

ON SM: Chinese outfit (corset and sleeves) to order from Aby Puzon (0917-9229184); Red capris, model's own. On Eric: White long-sleeved Mandarin shirt, to order from Raffy Viernes (0917-9314720); jeans, model's own



DRESS, stylist's own; wig from Bergmann



Pixie

ON MYN: Dress by Freeway; wings, The Landmark, P250; Earrings by Get Happy

From page E1

inspired fantasy for a night.

For this shoot, we dug out stuff from our own closets, borrowed from student designers, and jazzed up everyday outfits found in malls. No spandex suits here!

A change of hair and makeup can also give you a Halloween look. Xeng Zulueta and Yza Palmera of Shu Uemura show us how to tweak everyday colors into costume sheens, while Pin Antonio and the Salon de Manila creative team used Tigi Bed Head products to create Halloween-worthy looks.

E-mail biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

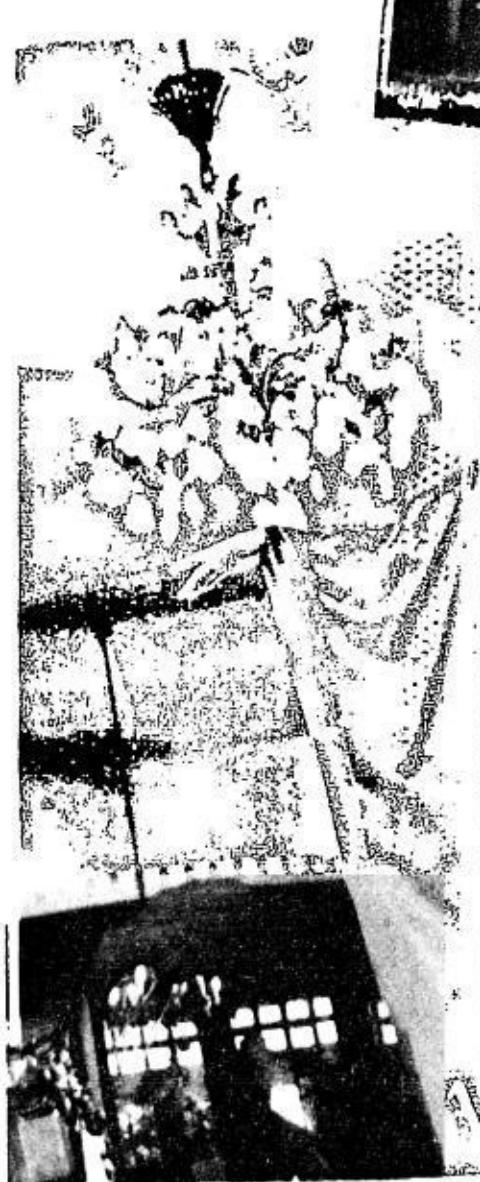


ON ERIC: Black tank top, K2; jeans, model's own. On Kat: white ball gown, stylist's own; beaded belt (used as hairpiece), K2



Satine

ON SM: Gown, stylist's own



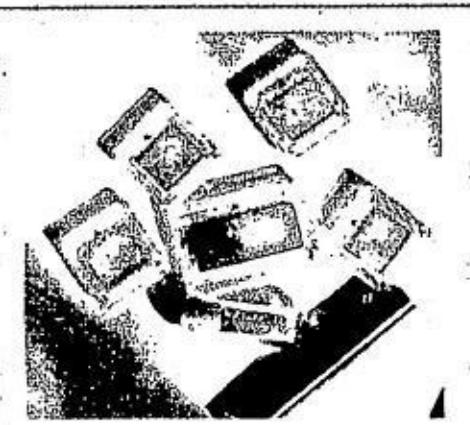


BLACK tube top, stylist's own; leather skirt and boots from K2 in Glorietta

Makeup by **XENG ZULUETA** and **YZA PALMERO** of Shu Uemura. Hair by **PIN ANTONIO** and **Salon de Manila's** creative team for **Tigi Bed Head**

SPECIAL THANKS TO VANESSA FIGUEROA, ERICA ILICAD AND KIT ARINES, SHOT AT THE FIGUEROA RESIDENCE. MODELS: KAT VILLANUEVA, MYN REYES, SH SOMERA, DENISE ONG, MAYETTE CORDERO AND ERIC ELEAZAR. ADDITIONAL HAIRSTYLISTS: JERRY GARCIA, GARY LUI, TAPAS AND TEAM. CALL SALON DE MANILA AT 8501632 AND 8078032.

DRESS, to order from **Mitzi Cruz** (0917-6254285); tiara, stylist's own; wig from **Bergmann**



Get the look!

Pixie

Think Tinkerbell with a twist. If you have short hair, use Rubber Rage, a cross between wax and gel to get more feminine spikes (and to avoid looking like your brother). Brush on ME Green 555 eye shadow on your lids and P Wine 25 blush for an impish, Technicolor twist.

Catwoman

If you're feeling mischievous (and too lazy to buy a headband), create your own cat's ears with Hard To Get, a pliable paste best for short hair. Get smoky eyes with ME Silver 945 and pair off with plum lip color.

Princess

Aim to look innocent and dreamy. Before curling your hair, spritz on Uptight, a heat-activated curl maker to make your locks remain bouncy as you walk from door to door to collect your candy. Finish off with P Pink 30 blush and Sweet Lipgloss in Strawberry.

Angel

Angels have to look, well, heavenly. Use Headrush to enhance shine on soft curls, then play up your features with shimmer (not glittery) makeup. Try P Silver 91 highlighter on your cheekbones and shoulders, and IR Rainbow 900P eyeshadow, which looks white on the pan but comes out shimmering lilac-pink on your skin.

Victorian

To get really big hair, put up your hair in a bun and attach a curly wig held up by pencils. No, seriously. This gravity-defying hairdo was made possible by Maxxed-Out hairspray (with the pencils). To get icy-blue eyes, try P Blue 655 eyeshadow. Don't forget to use mascara for that extra touch of drama.

Flapper girl

Recreate the Roaring '20s with straight, bobbed hair and smoky eyes. Use Control Freak Hair Straightener, then apply blue-black eyeshadow on your lids paired with false lashes. Try ME Blue 638 and P Black 960 eyeshadow.

Gypsy

Manage to look as dirty (but glamorous) as a gypsy with messy hair and daring makeup. Use Small Talk, a styling aid for body and volume, and tease the roots of your hair to get that I-haven't-brushed-my-hair-since-birth look. Try ME Gold 390 eyeshadow paired with lots of eyeliner and red lipstick.

Marilyn

The ultimate Hollywood goddess, Marilyn Monroe's signature look includes platinum blonde hair, red lipstick, and mole. Unless you feel like bleaching your hair, get a wig (easily found at National Book Store). Try Lollishine Rouge Lipstick in 136, Mascara Length and Waterproof, and a little mole made with eyeliner.

China doll

Think geisha-meets-Chinese opera singer-meets Princess Leia. Braid hair and twist up in a bun, held with Power Trip gel to prevent any strands from falling. Get creative by mixing ME Gold 390 and ME Yellow 330 eye shadows, and follow with a dab of P Red 14, a watermelon-colored blush that's perfect for creating those Oriental eyes.

'Moulin Rouge's' Satine

If you like Satine's look, go for smoky eyes, red lipstick, and either an updo or curly hair. Use Superstar, a thermal blow dry lotion for more volume before putting up your hair. Then create smoky eyes with ME Brown 885 and slick on Lollishine Rouge in 353.

GUYITO WILD HUNT

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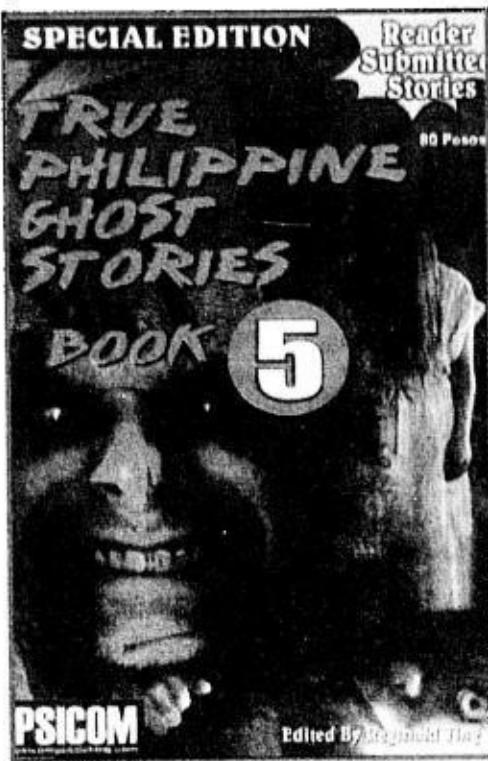
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Packed with Pinoy horror

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

THE PHILIPPINES is a huge cauldron of spooky stories and experiences. Whether you are in a picture-perfect province or in the city, you cannot escape elementals, white and black ladies plus earthbound spirits—either in physical form or through stories.

Horror stories on print are always a hit even if you've already heard of them before. Apart from the fact that interpretation is left to your imagination, the focus and quiet required by the act of reading also add to the fear factor.

These days, high schoolers are going crazy over "True Philippine Ghost Stories," a series of books by Gianna Maniego and her team of ghost writers. Published by PSICOM Publishing, each book is a compilation of supposedly true stories involving the usual suspects such as white ladies, headless ghosts and aswangs.

While the books are quite entertaining, some may get bored with the often predictable endings and hackneyed formulas. It's a book that purports to be a collection of "True Stories," yet it includes a glossary of terms (Book 2), a couple of jokes (Books 3 and 6) and, worst of all, a work of fiction ("Teen Travails" from Book 4).

Also, not all stories are about ghosts, since elementals, *manananggals* and doppelgangers also make an appearance. Excuse me?

Torrent of errors

Book 1 was printed and released in 2002, and the most horrific thing about it is not the story about the *kapre* or the tales involving apparitions of relatives. It is the torrent of typographical errors in the book, which extends to the succeeding volumes.

The second book is a bit more interesting. Apart from pictures that do not have anything to do with the stories, there are some interesting



Young readers are going crazy over "True Philippine Ghost Stories," a series of books by Gianna Maniego and her team of ghost writers

ing fillers such as a discussion on what *aswangs* or *manananggals* are. Particularly interesting are "Spirit of the Glass," reprint of an online post by blue blooded at www.pinoyexchange.com and a story about the UST's old Med building. Book 2 also has a list of haunted places for interested ghost-hunters to visit.

Book 3's greatest strength is the uniformly commendable set of illustrations by Jim and Jay Jimenez and Gilbert Monsanto, although I honestly don't think any of these artworks can scare anyone. The true horror is, the typographical errors are back!

Book 4 got rid of the illustrations and instead included photos of "ghosts" caught on camera, care of the Internet. This is truly a wise move. How do you argue with pictures, after all? Also, the editors can just get them for free from forwarded e-mail. Very clever.

But what are ugly kiddie doodles doing on one of the book's first pages? Good thing there are great stories, like "Teen Travails" by Viveca R. Singson, and a very entertaining work called "Something Terror This Road Comes" by Ivy Therese I. Cabilio.

Special edition

Book 5 is a special edition because it contains reader-submitted stories, some of which are

grouped together. It has a scary story entitled "Blinking Virgin Mary," and it has, hands down, the scariest cover of the entire series. I'm joking. The cover blurb reads, "Do you believe in ghosts? Maybe now. You will." Truly something to scream about.

Book 6 is the latest installment. It shows that the people behind the series have pretty much learned from their past mistakes. For one, Book 5 editor Reginald Ting is gone, replaced by the comeback Gianna Maniego.

The content is a nice balance of illustrations, e-mailed pictures and mostly ghost stories. At last! Back to basics!

Got a scary story of your own? Join the ghost story writing contest of PSICOM, the publisher of the "True Philippine Ghost Stories" series and National Bookstore. Get flyers from National Bookstore or log on to <http://www.psicompublishing.com/forum>

"True Philippine Ghost Stories" Books 1-6 are all available at Powerbooks and National Bookstore.



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TRICKS for treats

By Pauline Buenaventura
2bU! Correspondent

THINKING of throwing your own spookfest this Halloween? Well, here are some delicacies that will surely blow your guests' taste buds away.

Halloween Black Cat Cookies

1 c crunchy peanut butter
1/3 c of water
2 eggs
1 pack chocolate cake mix
1 pack M&Ms plain, chocolate

1 pack small marshmallows
Mix the peanut butter, eggs and water. Add the cake mix gradually and mix well. Form the dough into one-inch balls. Place them on an ungreased cookie sheet. Use a glass bottom dipped in sugar to flatten the balls. Transform the balls into cats by adding M&Ms for the eyes and marshmallows for the nose. Form two ears at the top of the cookie by pinching the dough. Use a fork to form the cat's whiskers. Bake your cookies at 375° for around eight-10 minutes. Stick a toothpick into the cookies every now and then to test if they're ready. If the toothpick comes out with fudgy cookie crumbs, then your Black Cat cookies are ready!

Candy Apples

1 dozen red apples
3 c granulated sugar
1 c corn syrup
1 c water
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp red food coloring
12 pcs barbecue stick

Thoroughly wash and dry the apples and insert a barbecue stick on the stem end of each apple. Prepare a greased baking sheet. Combine the sugar, corn syrup and water in a saucepan. Heat the mixture and stir constantly until the sugar dissolves. Cover and bring it to a boil. Once it is boiling, uncover the saucepan and drop in cold water one at a time. Blend in the cinnamon and red food coloring. Remove from heat. Dip in the skewered apples and coat evenly. Place on the baking sheet to harden.

Makes 12 candies.

Orange and Chocolate Cheesecake

1 box Chocolate Wafers
6 tbsp melted butter or margarine

3 packs cream cheese
1 c sugar
1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
5 eggs
2 oz melted semisweet chocolate

2 tsp grated orange peel
Combine the melted butter and cookie crumbs. Set aside 1/2 cup of the mixture. Use the rest of the mixture to cover the bottom and 1 1/2 inches of the sides of your cake pan. Press it onto the pan firmly. Set aside in the refrigerator. Beat the cream cheese, sugar and vanilla together in a bowl at medium speed with a mixer. Add one egg at a time. Remove one cup of the batter and add the 1/2 cup of butter and crumbs mixture. Set aside. Stir the orange peel into the remaining batter and pour into the refrigerated crust. Use the melted semisweet chocolate to cover the batter. Spread evenly on top. Bake at 300° for around 50-60 minutes or until set. Cool on a wire rack and refrigerate for at least four hours.

Spider-web Brownies

4 squares of unsweetened baking chocolate
3/4 c sugar
2 c sugar
3 eggs
1 c flour

1 c chopped nuts
1 c melted marshmallow
1 square of melted semisweet baking chocolate
Preheat the oven to 350°. Grease your baking pan. Heat chocolate and butter together until butter is melted. Remove from heat. Stir until the chocolate is melted. Add the sugar and stir until completely blended. Mix in eggs, vanilla, flour and nuts. Stir thoroughly. Pour onto greased cake pan. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until set. Do not overbake. Once baked, cover the brownies with melted marshmallow. Spread evenly. Use the melted semi-sweet chocolate to create a spider-web design. Wait until set, and then cut into squares.



Spending my Sunday with VIPs

I felt a bit surreal going inside the NBC Tent on a Sunday afternoon. No, it wasn't an after-party that extended till the next day, nor was it a rave event that started way too early.

But yes, I still managed to hobnob with over a thousand VIPs that day. The vibe was fresh, the music thumped and the people were really nice, touchy-feely in a good way. They moved around a lot, making sure all the VIPs had ample space to do their thing.

When I say VIPs, I don't mean chi-chi people out to feel pampered and be accorded special treatment. In fact, it's the other way around. These partyphiles were out to party—meaning, to spread unadulterated joy to other people by means of the "V" word—volunteerism! VIP now means Volunteer In Person.

VIP day 2004 by Hands On Manila was a whole day's worth of selfless devotion for a good cause. This year marks the third anniversary of the organization. INQUIRER president and a true volunteer, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez is the chair of the VIP event—putting everything together with the help of 200-strong volunteers. These VIPs planned and promoted the event, put up the exhibits, run the registration, distributed

food, manned the booths, and became big brothers and sisters to the kids. "They were there from early morning till the very end. How's that for sheer devotion?" So beamed Hands On Manila president Gianna Montinola, proud of the VIPs within her midst.

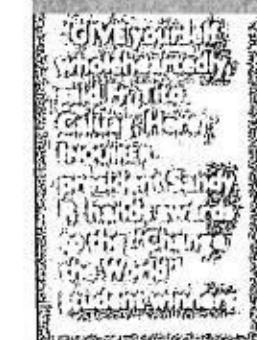
"It's so cool here—everyone is so sincere!" exclaimed my co-host for the day's auction, Tessa Prieto-Valdes. Lately, we've been hosting auctions together—we like increasing the value of any given item—for a good cause.

This time, the cause was to instill the value of volunteerism among the youth. But the value of each item to be auctioned off was worth more, because instead of money, the items took in bids of volunteer time. Clearly a win-win (or Wynn Wynn—after Hands On Manila VP Wynn Wynn Ong) situation because you win twice. That's the magic of giving.

Hands On playground

VIP day started with a mass officiated by Fr. Tito Caluag, with the Hangad choir spearheaded by the Associate Missionaries of Assumption. "Give wholeheartedly," he advised

SPENDING/F2



HAPPY kids at the Tent



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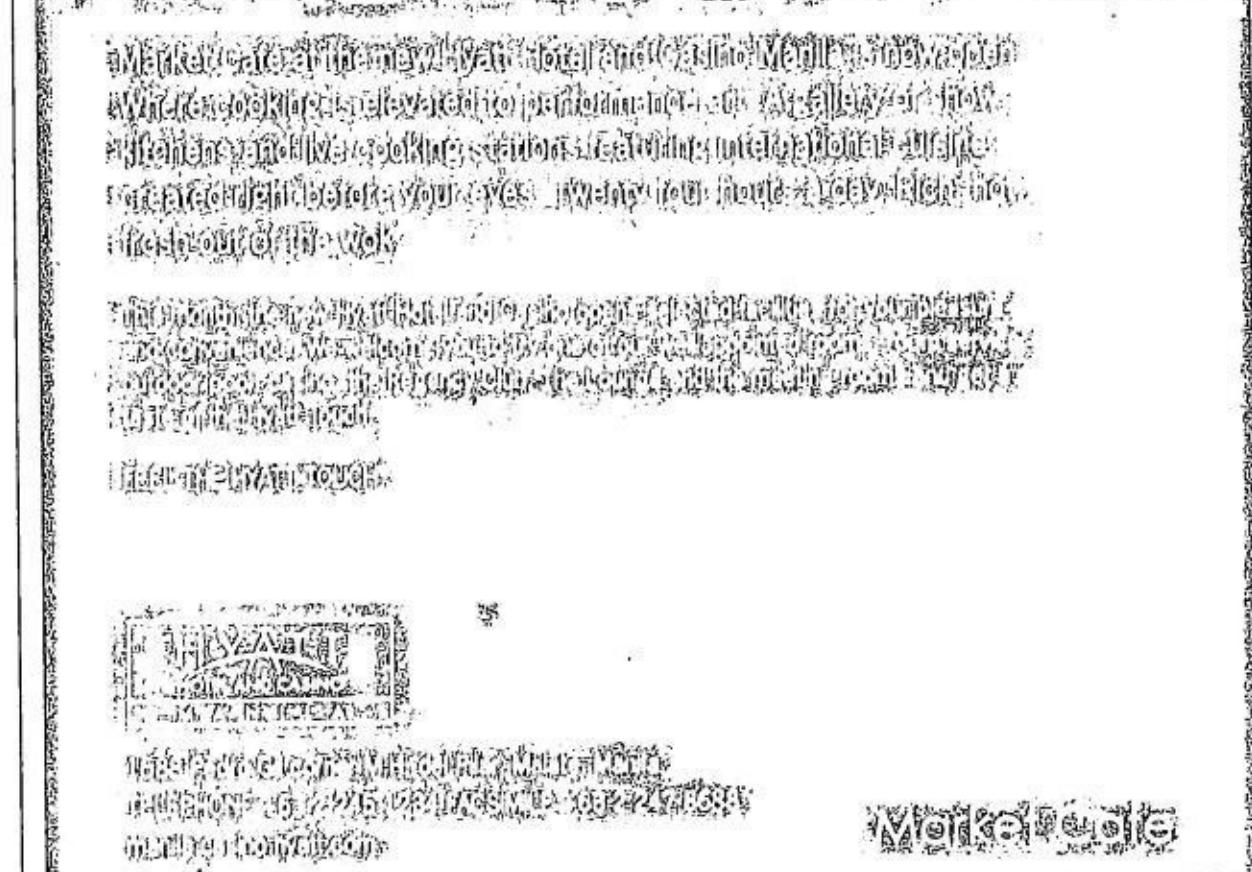
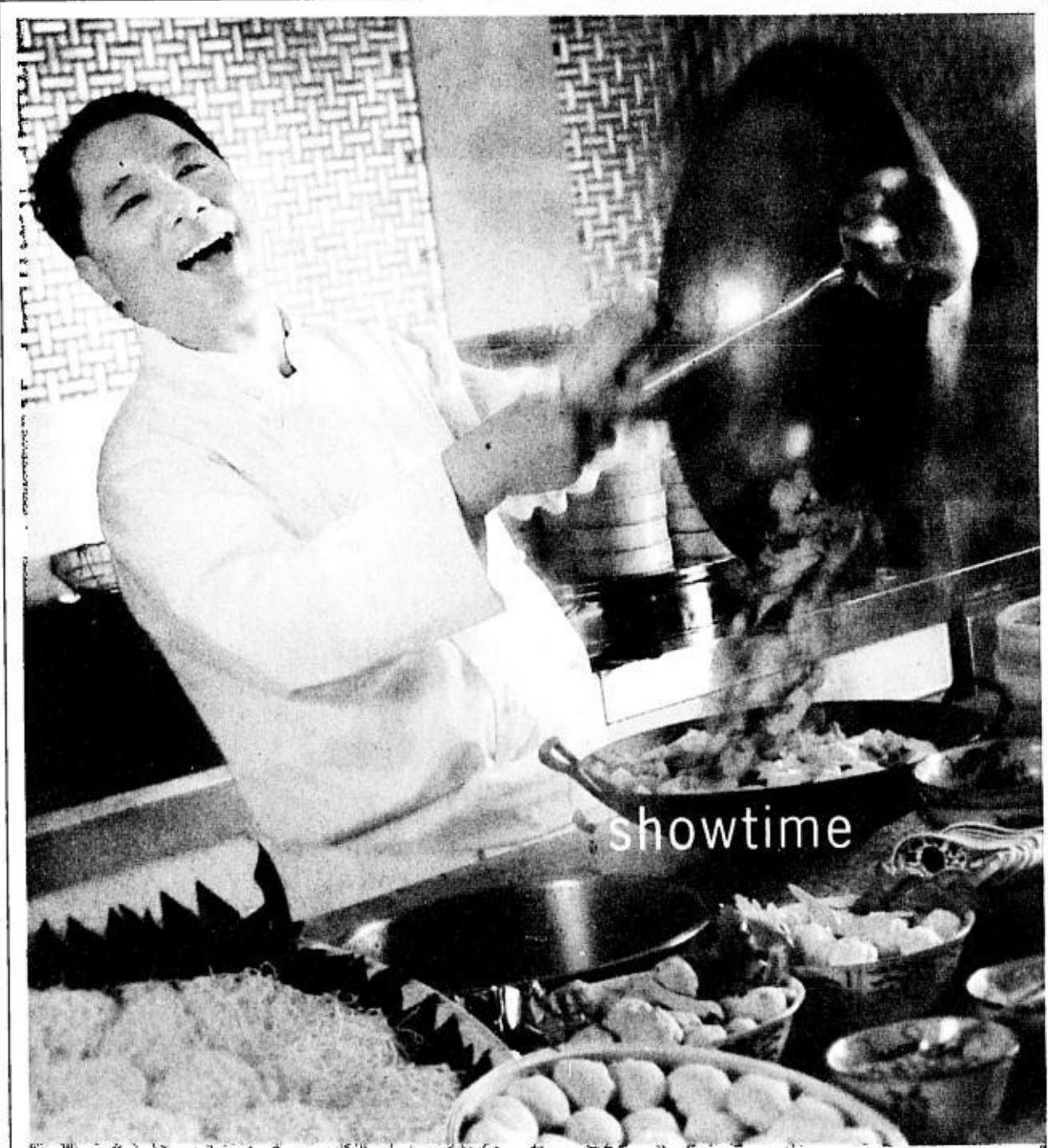
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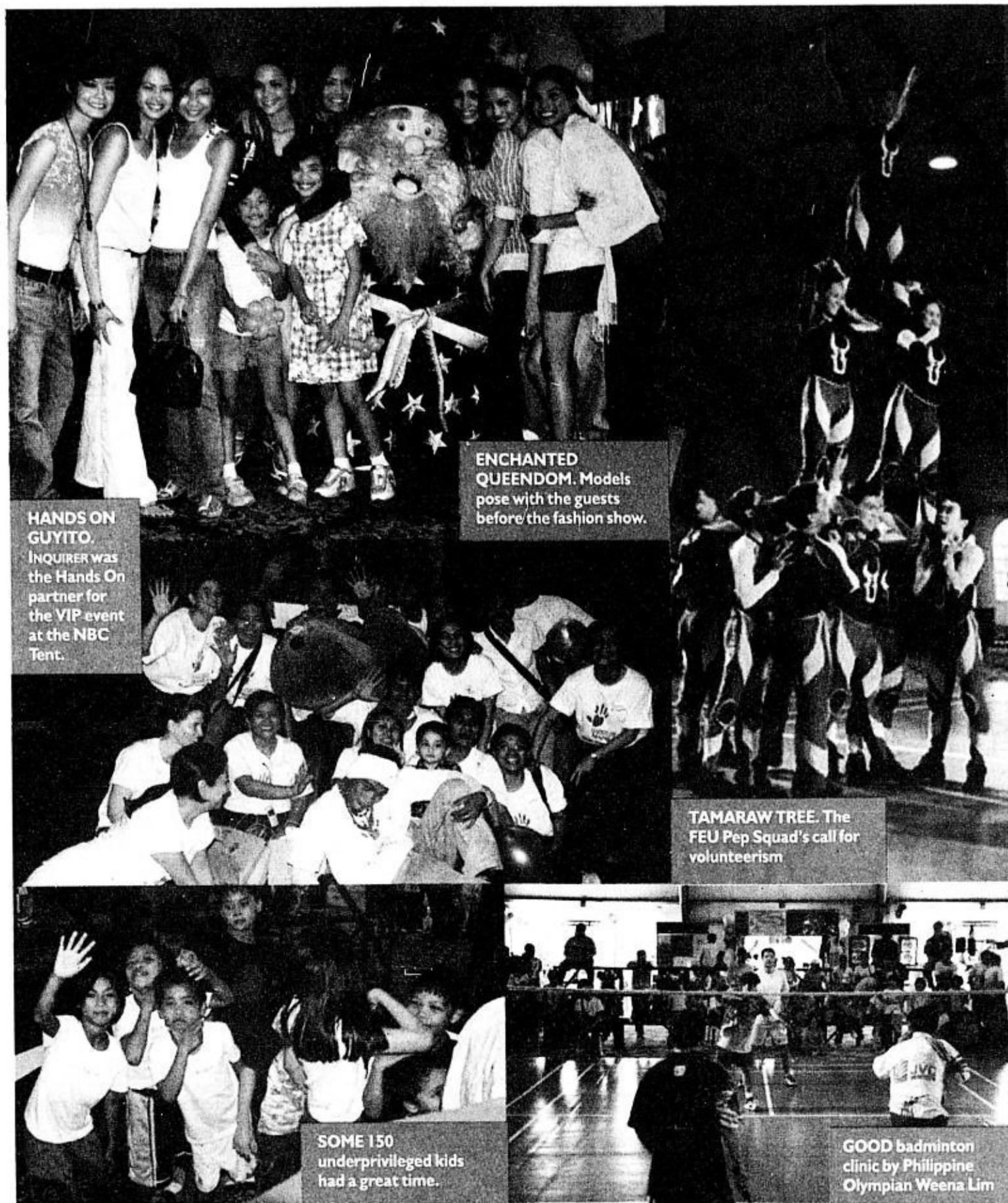
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ENCHANTED QUEENDOM. Models pose with the guests before the fashion show.

HANDS ON GUYITO.
INQUIRER was the Hands On partner for the VIP event at the NBC Tent.

TAMARAW TREE. The FEU Pep Squad's call for volunteerism

SOME 150 underprivileged kids had a great time.

GOOD badminton clinic by Philippine Olympian Weena Lim

BIDDING for V time. Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Yaparazzi during the VIP auction

From page F1

the crowd while an HOM (that's Hands On Manila for you) AVP directed by Quark Henares was played. In the video, Hands On Manila volunteer Babet talked about the fulfillment of volunteerism. "I am happy that I am able to share my talent. When I go, at least I can say I've helped others, I've passed on my legacy," he said in Filipino. After that, 150 kids from 11 children's organizations from different shelters had a field day playing in the giant slide, velcro wall and bouncing house. "The children were just so ecstatic, their faces full of joy," said Lisa Crisostomo, Hands On Manila director. If I had come earlier, I would have joined them in the Hands On playground.

But the kids went beyond playing. Their relay games were all related to volunteer projects: tree-planting, human spelling, "build-a-house" to "going-to-market"—all values-centered to

inculcate a sense of responsibility in our young.

The mobile library of Museo Pambata was also there, as volunteers did story-telling sessions. Unknown to many, this was how I spent some summers during my college years—as guest storyteller at the Museo Pambata. Game booths with basketball, fishing, ring toss, reading and art corners, were all over the VIP Tent. After lunch, a fashion show directed by Ariel Lozada and featuring 2bU student volunteers, Hands On Manila awardees and professional models was held. Woman of style and substance, the stylish Ces Drilon hosted the show, with Bench T-shirts on spotlight, as refashioned by top designers such as Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Rajo Laurel, Jojie Illoren, and Ivarluski Aseron, among others.

Fashion for others

I so wanted to snatch this Rajo Laurel top with white sequined

Youth Aid 2004
...because it's hip to serve

I wish to be a YOUTHAIDER!

This is your Youth Aid participation form. For those whose schools are participating in Youth Aid, you may pass the accomplished form to your class teacher or school head. If you're participating independently then you may submit this form to your local Youth Aid organizer.

Name: _____
 Nickname: _____
 Age: _____ Sex: _____
 School: _____
 Year Level: _____
 Address: _____

Phone Number: _____
 Mobile Number: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Signature / Date: _____

CONSENT SIGNATURES:
 Parent: _____
 Class Teacher: _____
 School Head: _____

>8

Hero #2088 a.k.a. Professor Paint

HERO PROFILE

Age: 16 Sex: M

Favorite Gadget
The Brush of Justice

Greatest Battle
Conquering the Blank Wall, The Call to Action

Partners
Captain Carpenter, The Plumber of Pickwick, The Gardening Gang

Greatest Adversary
Von the Vandal

Powers
Painting, Construction, Designing

Youth Aid:
Making a difference
your way

* This is Joel Mapa, hero #2088. He answers the call to action by painting houses for the homeless so that he can contribute his earnings to Youth Aid and give others a better chance of living. Youth Aid makes it possible for students like you and Joel to make a real difference for the community no matter who you are. Every peso earned from painting houses or entertaining by playing guitar will help underprivileged children build a better future.

This is a job for Youth Aid. This is a job for YOU.

November 20 is our day! We will inspire and show the world how we do it our way. Each Youth Alder will raise 250 pesos to add to the Youth Aid fund. If you are a high school or college student and your school is participating, fill up the attached form and get in touch with your class adviser, school head or school organizer. If your school is not participating, or you want to work independent from your school, or if you are not connected to any school, get in touch with your community Youth Aid organizer.

For more details you can also contact the Youth Aid National Secretariat, 8 San Manuel, Cainta, Rizal, Pasig City. Tel.: (02) 6355219 - Fax: (02) 6365190 - E-mail: youthaid@glveasia.com



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icles and another one stud with plastic eyes (the one in stuffed toys but I decided it should go to the violin). One of the rare times, the times I gave up a fashion for others.

for others, badminton clinic and an evening game was led by Philip Olympian **Weena Lim**, while non government organizations had booths selling their wares inside the tent.

the Far Eastern University Prep closed the whole-day exercises with an electric dome performance aimed at encouraging other young people to go and volunteer. Yes, VIP

1991. In Person, very involved per-

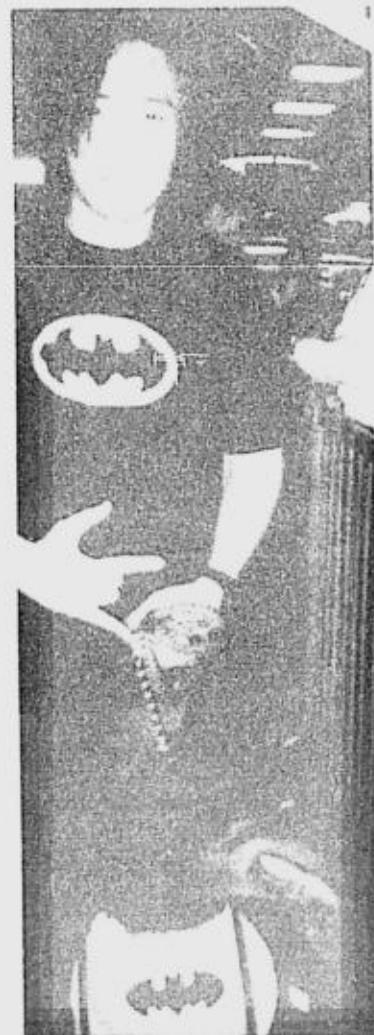
ed two-fold, and perhaps even more. True enough, after the auction, I looked around the Tent, smiled at the volunteers present,

and felt really warm inside.

Super! kids Halloween party

Maybe this volunteerism bit is really affecting me. This year, instead of doing my usual gigantic Halloween ball, I have decided to

Animal love



KELVIN Yu with Juday, a Rottweiler

Sweet surprises

HALLOWEEN, or more correctly, Hallowe'en, celebrated on October 31st, is a holiday that focuses on the twin pleasures of dressing wacky and spooky, and eating good-tasting things.

It's a time when youngsters dabble in fun games or crafts, and when little pirates, pixies and ghouls of all ages get into the scary spirit by playing around, going Trick or Treating, and finally being rewarded with a bagful of treats and sweet surprises.

of treats and sweet surprises. This season, entertain your guests with chewy treats like Be-beto gummi candies. They come in various fun shapes and characters like fish, bear, frog, shark, crocodile, turtle, ring, strawberry, cola bottle, Dracula teeth, and of course, the classic worms—the most popular Gummi characters around.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Richard wants to go home again

By Nini Valera

RICHARD Gutierrez admits he wants to go back to the family home because he misses his parents and siblings.

Richard moved out of the family house in White Plains, Quezon City, and now lives alone in the condominium unit of his sister Ruffa, who is married to a Turkish businessman and lives in her husband's country.

"I miss my family," Richard, 20, confided. "I get so lonely at times that I am now planning to return home."

He is also planning to renovate the den in their house in White Plains. He said it would be a playroom for his twin brother Raymond and himself.

Mother-son issues

Richard said that next year, he will move into his own condo unit, which he acquired recently.

"The unit is not yet finished," he said. "I bought it even before the building was finished. I might move there next year."

The young actor also admitted he has issues with his mother, but he refused to elaborate, brushing aside the issues as a "mother-and-son thing."

He also confessed it's not easy being the son of Annabelle Rama and Eddie Gutierrez.

"What I'm trying to do is make a name for myself," Richard told Inquirer Entertainment during the press conference of his film festival movie, "Sigaw," last Thursday.

"As much as possible, I don't want to be compared to my dad," he said. "But I guess I can't help that. Being in this business and being my father's son have kept me in the public eye even when I was just a kid. It's not always easy."

Better than dad

Ironically, Eddie Gutierrez is the first to compare Richard to himself, according to Richard.

"He told me that I am a better actor than he was when he was my age," said Richard. "I don't know if that's true, but he was serious when he told me that. I think it's because of the roles that I play."

"He also advised me to focus on my career, if this is what I really want, and he's been supportive of all my moves."

But Richard wants to go beyond his father's words. He said he constantly reinvents himself for the movies he makes, and has been attending acting workshops to enhance his skills.

"I don't want to appear as me in any of my movies," he explained. "I want to get into character and transform myself into that character."

In an earlier interview, his mom Annabelle told Inquirer Entertainment that Richard is a good son.

"I don't have problems with him," she said. "He helps the family willingly. He told me his plans about renovating some rooms in the house, and I'm happy he's doing that."

Business boom

She also revealed that Richard is generous with his siblings.

"He always remembers the family and gives us gifts," she related. "He's not hard-headed at all, and he has a good heart."

"When the twins were born, they brought us luck," she said. "At that time, we were living in the US and selling pots and pans. I have

two sets of this cookware that I use up to now. I bought them after the twins were born so I have a souvenir to mark their birth. After their birth, our business suddenly boomed. We received so many orders for the pots and pans. The twins brought with them many blessings."

In his daily fantasy soap "Mulawin" on GMA 7, Richard plays the birdman Aguiluz. The series takes up most of his time, he said, but he managed to squeeze in shooting days for "Sigaw," where he is paired with Angel Locsin, his "Mulawin" co-star.

He debunked speculations that he and Angel are now a pair.

"I have no girlfriend at the moment," said Richard, who had gone steady with Anne Curtis for about a year.

He also denied rumors that a third party was involved in his breakup with Anne.

"It was a mutual decision," Richard said. "We're now good friends."

Happy twin

Notwithstanding the guarded answers, Richard makes an intelligent subject for an interview. He finished high school in the US, came back to the Philippines with his twin Raymond, a more brooding version of Richard, and lived in the family home in White Plains.

Raymond is not in show biz the way Richard has embraced the movies.

"He is happy the way he is," Richard said of Raymond. "That's okay, too. As long as he's happy doing his thing, that's fine with me."

He revealed that "Sigaw," a horror movie directed by Yam Laranas, had given him a few scares. The movie is set in the abandoned Avenue Theater on Escolta in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The members of the production staff claimed they had several unexplained occurrences on the set. Strange noises were heard during the shooting, and several unearthly presences could be felt, they claimed.

Negative factors

The hauntings, a staffer said, set the mood for the movie, which Yam Laranas described in a press release as one of the scariest films this season.

But Richard is not bothered by the supernatural. He is more concerned about the real-life intrigues that sometimes haunt him.

"That's one thing I hate in this business," he said. "The intrigues and the rumors, the 'plastic' people. Those are the negative factors in being an actor. But I have to live with them and not let them affect me."

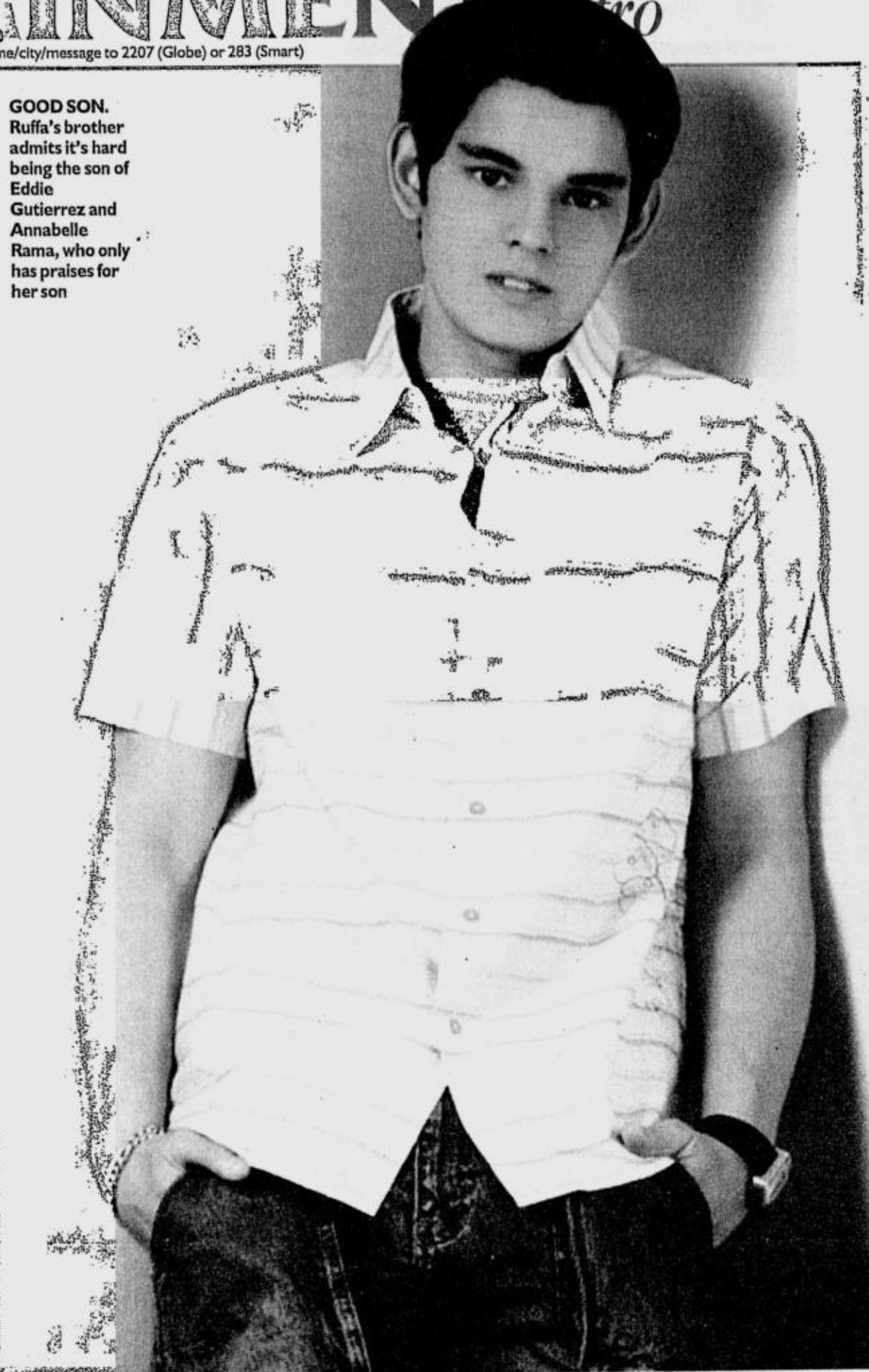
He plays an ordinary young man in "Sigaw," who gets entangled with one of his neighbors, a battered wife (Iza Calzado), who suffers the ritual beating from her husband, a cop played by Jomari Yllana. But it's his role in last year's "Mano Po 2" that is still Richard's benchmark for good acting.

"That role is my favorite so far," said Richard. "It was offbeat in the sense that there was so much angst in the character. I still have to top that performance."

"Mano Po 2" had Richard playing the tortured son of Lorna Tolentino, who played the third wife in the extended saga of a Chinese patriarch. In the movie, Richard got to commit suicide, a role that went against the grain of matinee idols.

"That's the point," said Richard. "I don't have to be a matinee idol. I just want to be a good actor."

GOOD SON.
Ruffa's brother
admits it's hard
being the son of
Eddie
Gutierrez and
Annabelle
Rama, who only
has praises for
her son



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the minute she was born
to a megastar mother
and an equally famous
father. She has since
bloomed into a
star/model/endorser
who's almost as in
demand as her mom.
Today, she is
a Communications and
Business student in Paris,
where she also works as a
secretary with a French
TV production company.
On her last visit to
Manila, she shared
the exciting details of her
stay in the City of Lights,
including her shopping
expeditions. "You can
lose your whole bank
account in Paris!" she
said. KC's French
adventure is in the latest
issue of *Mega* magazine,
on whose cover she first
appeared when she
turned 16.

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 THE GRUDGE | 1 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2 | 1 STEAL 2 WHITE CHICKS | 5 SHARK TALE 6 THE GRUDGE 7 CELLULAR | 1 BEFORE SUNSET 2 THE GRUDGE 3 SECRET WINDOW 4 HEAVEN'S POND 5 THE PUNISHER |
| 2 BEFORE SUNSET | 2 THE GRUDGE | 3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2 | 4 THE DOLL MASTER | 1 LADDER 49 2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2 4 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 5 CELLULAR |
| 3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2 | 3 CELLULAR | 4 THE DOLL MASTER | 5 CELLULAR | 1 GUARANTEED SEATS 2 GUARANTEED SEATS 3 GUARANTEED SEATS 4 GUARANTEED SEATS 5 GUARANTEED SEATS |
| 4 CELLULAR | 4 WHITE CHICKS | 5 CELLULAR | 6 THE GRUDGE | 6 THE GRUDGE 7 CELLULAR |
| 5 WHITE CHICKS | | 7 CELLULAR | | |

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Ayala MUSEUM



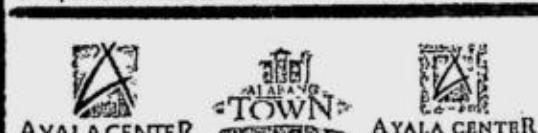
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what to watch

1 BEFORE SUNSET

2 BABY GENIUSES 2

3 THE PODIUM

4 BEFORE SUNSET

5 BABY GENIUSES 2

6 CELLULAR

7 THE GRUDGE

8 SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

9 STEAL

10 WHITE CHICKS

11 DOLL MASTER

12 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

13 LADDER 49

14 RESIDENT EVIL

15 SHARK TALE

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BOY ABUNDA's "Private Conversations" has been nominated for best talk show in the Asian Television Awards in Singapore. The winners will be known in December. "Private Conversations" is aired on ANC.



The Diary of Alicia Keys'

ONCE in a while, a true musician like Alicia Keys' comes along—the kind that looks at her work as an expression of her own experiences.

These experiences are chronicled in Keys' latest release, "The Diary of Alicia Keys-Special Edition," an album that reflects who she is and what she's about.

The album has already spawned such radio and music video favorites like "You Don't Know My Name" and "Diary," which is at No. 5 on dwRX 93.1 and No. 10 on Wav 89.1.

The special edition album also includes a bonus CD featuring album track remixes and "If Ain't Got You," where she is joined by Usher, today's hottest male R&B artist.

To launch the special edition album, Keys will be releasing a new single, "Karma." The song demonstrates her innovative approach to music and the diversity of her own musical training.

Keys is a rare artist—a singer, songwriter and extraordinary pianist who combines classical training with an old-school sensibility and a mix of hip-hop and R&B.

"The Diary of Alicia Keys-Special Edition" album is now available in record stores nationwide and is exclusively distributed by BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc.

Pamela Anderson urges Queen to stop using fur in guards' helmets

LONDON—Former "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson has sent a petition to Queen Elizabeth II urging Britain's monarch to stop the use of bear pelts in making the tall black helmets worn by palace guards.

The charity People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) said Anderson collected 200 signatures from fans in Britain and mailed the petition to Buckingham Palace on Friday. A palace spokeswoman refused to comment.

In her petition, the 37-year-old actress argued that synthetic materials should be used to make the hats worn by guards who patrol the palace gate.

The towering black hat, or busby, dates back almost 200 years to the Battle of Waterloo and is a key part of the uniform of the five guards'

regiments—the Coldstream, Grenadier, Irish, Scots and Welsh.

It also features in traditional ceremonies like Trooping the Color and the Changing of the Guard.

"We the undersigned urge the queen to call on the Ministry of Defense to cease the use of real fur on the uniforms for the regiment of foot guards," the petition said.

Anderson collected the signatures at a London store where she was signing copies of her new novel on Thursday.

"Peta has worked with a top faux fur manufacturer to produce a material that is now being field-tested by the Ministry of Defense to replace bear fur, but during this process bears continue to be killed to make these ceremonial hats," said a Peta spokeswoman.

But army spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Dick-Peter said no suitable synthetic alternative had yet been found.

"The army has been working closely with Peta because they say they can produce a satisfactory alternative using artificial fiber," he said.

"So far, Peta has signally failed to do so."

He added that "no bears are killed simply for the caps."

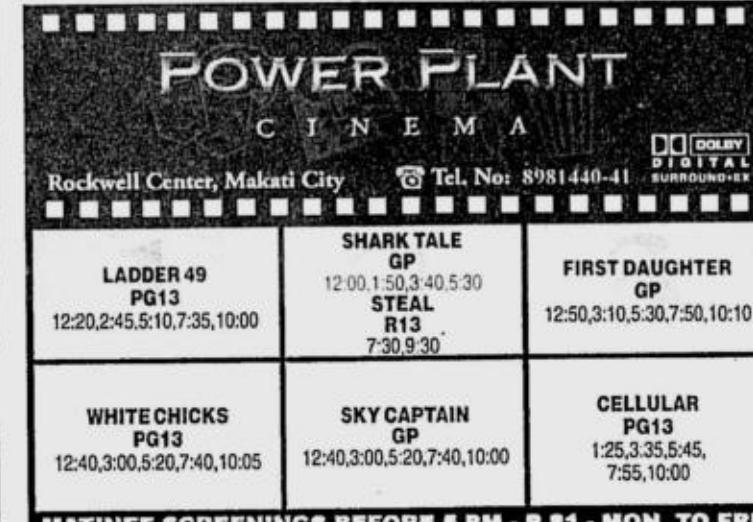
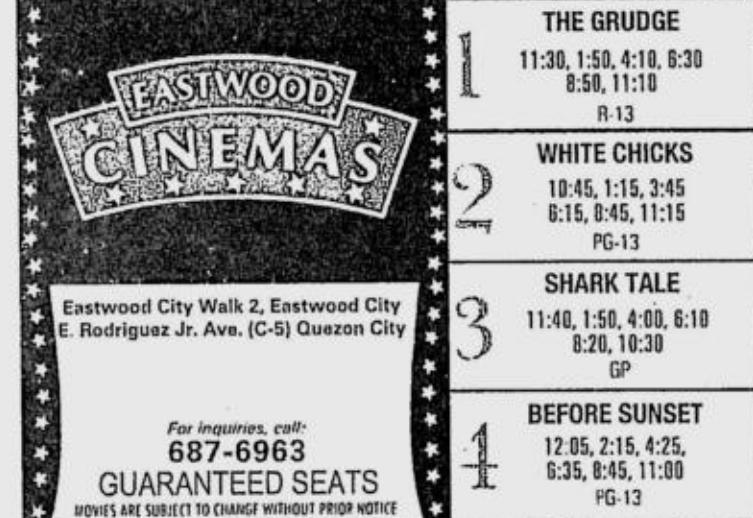
"The bears are killed to control the population," Dick-Peter said. "Where we can use an artificial alternative, we do so."

Fake leopard skin is now worn by drummers in marching bands, while the smaller busby worn by members of the King's Troop is no longer made from beaver fur. AP



ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

| ALI MALL CINEPLEX | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 3 | BABY GENIUSES 2 |
| 12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm | |
| 4 | THE GRUDGE |
| 11:20 am 1:45 pm 4:10 pm 6:35 pm 9:00 pm | |
| 5 | CELLULAR |
| 12:20 nn 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm | |
| 6 | THE DOLL MASTER |
| 12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm | |
| 7 | ROOM SERVICE |
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| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AT BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |

QUEZON CITY

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KALAH KA PAPATAY |
| CORNETA | KARELASYON / NAG-APOY NA LAMAN |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BESTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

| | |
|---|------------------|
| A | TUKSO SI CHARITO |
| B | CLOSED |
| C | |

MANDALUYONG CITY

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 10 70 |
| CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4 BEFORE SUNSET / GRUDGE / SHARK TALE / WHITE CHICK | |
| PREMIERE THEATRE | LADDER 49 |

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| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | LADDER 49 |
| CINEMA-2 | TUKSO SI CHARITO 2 |

SHANG CINEPLEX

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CINEMA-3 | FENG SHUI |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | OPEN WATER |
| CINEMA-6 | THE PUNISHER |
| CINEMA-7 | RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE |
| CINEMA-8 | EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | WHITE CHICKS |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | CELLULAR |
| CINEMA-11 (DTS) | DOLL MASTER |
| CINEMA-12 | SIN |
| CINEMA-13 | SHARK TALE |
| CINEMA-14 | |
| CINEMA-15 | SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW |

LORES

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| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

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| (LAS PINAS) | BAUHAN SUPREMACY |
| CINEMA-1 | FENG SHUI |
| CINEMA-2 | SECRET WINDOW |
| CINEMA-4 | BANGKOK HAUNTED |

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |

SELCINEMA

| | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| CINEMA-1 | REVIVE |
| CINEMA-2 | THE DAWN / AKAELIAS / 3rd Degree |
| CINEMA-4 | SELINA |

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

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| PREMIERE THEATRE | LADDER 49 |
| 2 | BEFORE SUNSET |
| 3 | SHARK TALE |

SHANG CINEPLEX

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 4 | WHITE CHICKS |
| 5 | THE GRUDGE |

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 6 | REVIVE |
| 7 | THE DAWN / AKAELIAS / 3rd Degree |
| 8 | SELINA |

SHANG CINEPLEX

| | |
|----|------------|
| 9 | THE GRUDGE |
| 10 | REVIVE |

SHANG CINEPLEX

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| 11 | THE GRUDGE |
| 12 | REVIVE |

SHANG CINEPLEX

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| 13 | THE GRUDGE |
| 14 | REVIVE |

SHANG CINEPLEX

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| 15 | THE GRUDGE |
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ENTERTAINMENT Metro

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By Remy Umerez
Contributor

IT WAS a merry scenario, to say the least.

On Oct. 18 at Boysie Bar, a block away from Aristocrat Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard, bold starlets gathered to wish Allen Dizon a happy birthday on his 26th.

They had all been to bed with the celebrating hunk... on screen, of course.

The other hot Viva newcomers present were: Justine de Leon, who will soon debut in the movie "Mga Pusang Gala"; Fil-Am actor Jerome Ocampo, a regular in GMA-7 shows; ramp model Jayson Colis; Paolo Serrano, a computer science graduate, and Hotmen newcomer Ethan Zulueta.

All five male lookers are in the cast of "Hipo," a sex comedy stage show forthcoming at the Music Museum. "Hipo" is short for "hipokrito."

Justine plays a gay character, apparently unmindful of any effect this might have on his macho image. Is he ready for a kissing scene with another man, in front of a live audience?

"I have no idea if there's such a scene," Jus-

'Hipo' tackles hypocrisy in show biz

tine said in Filipino. "If there is, I don't know if I can do it, but my manager will decide that. For me, it's just another job."

Popaya Grande

Katya Santos, as shapely as ever, turned up at the party and bussed everyone in sight.

It made her proud and excited, she said,

that she was the one and only choice to play the character Papaya Grande in "Hipo."

"I appeared in my first play before I went bold," Katya recalled. "It was a school play and we were campaigning against abortion."

This early, she said, "Hipo" was making her very nervous. "What if I forget my lines? I haven't read the script, but I know it has substance. And yet it is show biz. My Papaya is a dime a dozen in the industry. She symbolizes anyone who would do anything just to get famous."

To be staged in early December, "Hipo" is written by Vince de Jesus and directed by Soxy Topacio. It tackles hypocrisy, sexuality and morality in show business.

Katya is an original member of Viva Hotbabes, and intends to remain loyal to the group. She explained: "I have no reason to quit Viva. All the things they promised me, they fulfilled. Despite the clampdown on sexy movies, I continue to get assignments. Our Hotbabes videos are selling well and, aside from talent fees, we also get royalties for those."

There's no way she'd go nude, the Bulakenia sexpot said, even if the script of "Hipo" called for it. "I would go as far as showing my butt," she said, "and the sexiest costume I would wear is lingerie."

But for the two-night engagement, she is charging producer Allen Dizon less than her usual fee—her way of showing him support, she said, and because she appreciates the opportunity to get some stage experience.

No second thoughts

Allen, himself a member of the "Hipo" cast, thinks nothing of disrobing onstage. "It's



COOL, NERVOUS. Allen Dizon says it's just work; Katya is nervous

"I haven't read the script, but I know it has substance," says Katya. "And yet it is show biz"

work," he said. "I am more concerned about my performance. As a Hotmen model, I just walk around in briefs, smile, pose. I don't have lines to deliver. This is something new. I have asked myself, could I ad-lib in case I forget my dialogue? The actors I talked to told me the same thing: just be confident and act as if no one is watching you."

The success of "Penis Talks" encouraged Allen to proceed with the venture. "Sex comedies seem to be the trend nowadays, so why go against it? The investment is not that big, and hopefully we can attract more sponsors for repeats."

He also expects to benefit as an actor. "I don't want it said that I'm good only in taking off my clothes," he said. "People tend to have a higher regard for performers who have done stage work."

Sarah at 16

SHE'S only 16, but Sarah Geronimo has blossomed into a complete entertainer.

She has a quadruple platinum album, sold-out concerts, a TV series and product endorsements (Jollibee and Charmee). And now, she's starring in the movie "Lastikman," where she plays the love interest of Mark Bautista who plays the title role.

With them in the movie are Cherie Gil, John Estrada, Danilo Barrios, Elizabeth Oropesa and Tuesday Vargas.

But the young star says, "I haven't changed. I'm still the old Sarah. Sometimes I'm overwhelmed. I say to myself, Is this really happening?"

Sarah is preparing her second album, "Princesa ng Aking Buhay," under Viva Records.

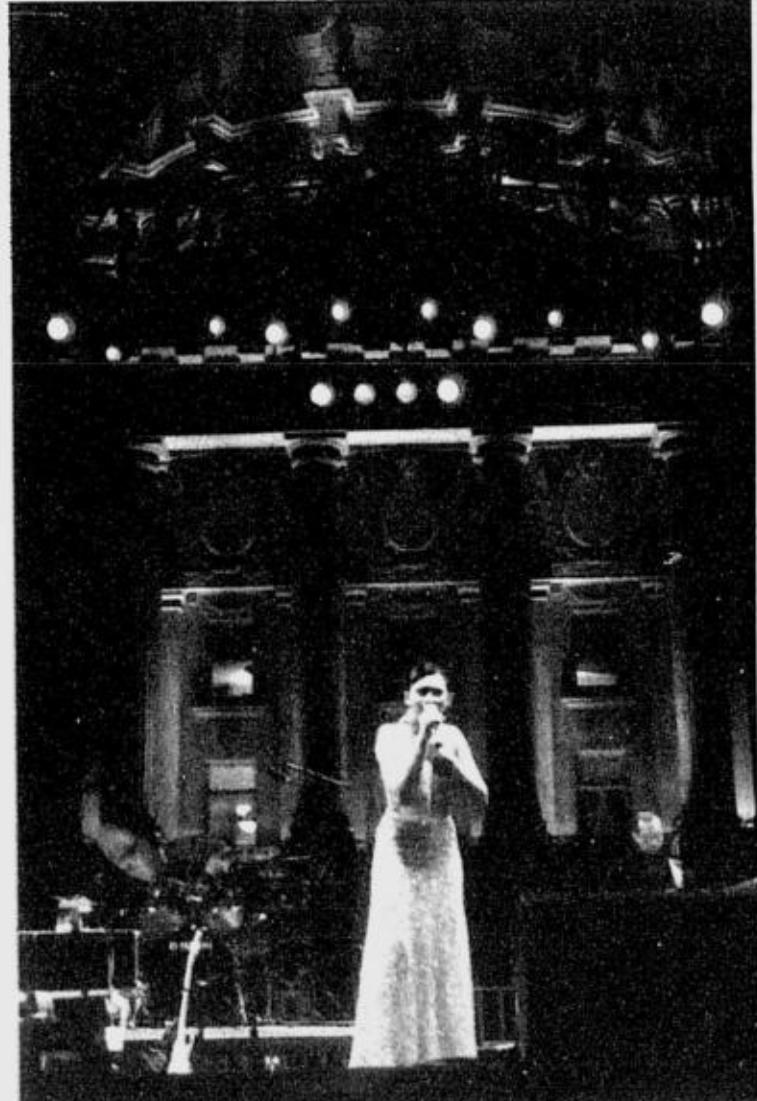
Her show on ABS-CBN, "Sarah The Teen Princess," is set to end next week. "The show introduced me to Filipinos in the US," she says. "The exposure contributed to the success of our concert tour there last month."

Sarah was the Most Promising Female Artist in the Aliw Awards.

In the 17th Awit Awards, she won as Best New Female Recording Artist for "Forever's Not Enough." Her song "Sa Iyo" was Best Dance Song.

"Without Boss Vic [del Rosario of Viva], I wouldn't be where I am today," she says.

But Boss Vic says Sarah is successful because she has talent—lots of it. "She weaves that certain kind of magic that captivates her audience," he says. "You should see the fans practically step on one another just to get close to her."



PRINCESS SARAH. Soon to star in a new movie

Halloween bash at Monsoon

ON FRIDAY, Oct. 29, Monsoon Restaurant and Bar at the Linden Suites will host a Halloween bash.

The Essence Band will perform through the night.

The party also includes a raffle where prizes from San

Miguel Corp. will be given away, a beer buffet for only P230+ (with bar chow) until 8 p.m., and a 3+1 beer promo for only P246+ until 11 p.m.

The Monsoon Halloween bash is sponsored

by The Linden Suites and San Miguel Beer.

Monsoon Restaurant and Bar is on the 2nd floor of Linden Suites at 37 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Call 638-7878 local 8322 or 634-1753.

Pooh & Friends party with kids

NOW THAT students are having a break, kids can join the Pooh Halloween parties at Ayala Center Makati from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, and at the Alabang Town Center from Oct. 27 to 30.

Kids can explore the Hundred Acre Woods, Pooh's Spooky House, Tigger's House of Tricks and Eeyore's Scary Forest.

They can also meet, greet and

pose for pictures with their favorite characters—Pooh, Piglet, Tigger and Eeyore.

At the Halloween Arts and Crafts Corner, children can fashion their own masks, sponge-paint ghosts, decorate cakes and select cool Halloween tattoos.

A spectacular Trick or Treat will be held on Oct. 30 at 4:30 p.m. at the Alabang Town Center and on

Oct. 31, also at 4:30 p.m., at Ayala Center Makati. Children in the spookiest and wackiest costumes will have the chance to bag prizes. Special prizes will be given to trick-or-treaters in Pooh costumes.

Admission to these events is free.

The Pooh and Friends activities are sponsored by Globe Handyphone and Ayala Malls.

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